Touring Jacob's Ladder Trail by Bicycle or Car

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TOURING JACOB'S LADDER TRAIL

Prepared by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
1994

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Middlefield

BECKET

Tyringham

CHESTER

Otis

HUNTINGTON

Blandford

LEE

Chesterfield

RUSSELL

Granville

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Introduction

Welcome to historic Jacob's Ladder Trail located in the beautiful Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts. The Jacob's Ladder Trail area offers a rich variety of natural and historic resources within the communities of Becket, Chester, Blandford, Chesterfield, Middlefield, Tyringham, Otis, Huntington, Lee, Russell, Montgomery, Granville and Worthington. The Westfield River, a nationally designated Wild & Scenic River, flows through several of these towns. Jacob's Ladder Trail's parks and state forests offer a wealth of recreational opportunities including boating, hiking, fishing, cross country skiing and of course biking! The area hosts a number of special events and festivals throughout the year including the Chester Hill Maple Festival, Westfield River Whitewater Races, Chester On Track, Westfield Classic Bicycle Road Race, Great River Ride Bicycle Race, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Littleville Fair, Hilltown Farmer's Market, Middlefield Fair, THE miniture theatre OF CHESTER, Blandford Fair, Jacob's Ladder Days and Chester Hill Harvest Festival, to name a few. There are National Historic Districts in Becket, Chester, Lee and Middlefield. The area is the home of many nationally known artists and crafts people. Jacob's Ladder Trail and its adjacent country roads are dotted with art galleries and studios, antique shops, country stores, bed and breakfasts and other small rural businesses that provide service to both visitors and residents alike.

7
9
Pittsfield
20
October Mtn.
State Forest
8
Lee
90
Becket
Beartown
State Forest
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Onis
Reservoir
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MASSACHUSETTS
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Jacob's Ladder Trail Area
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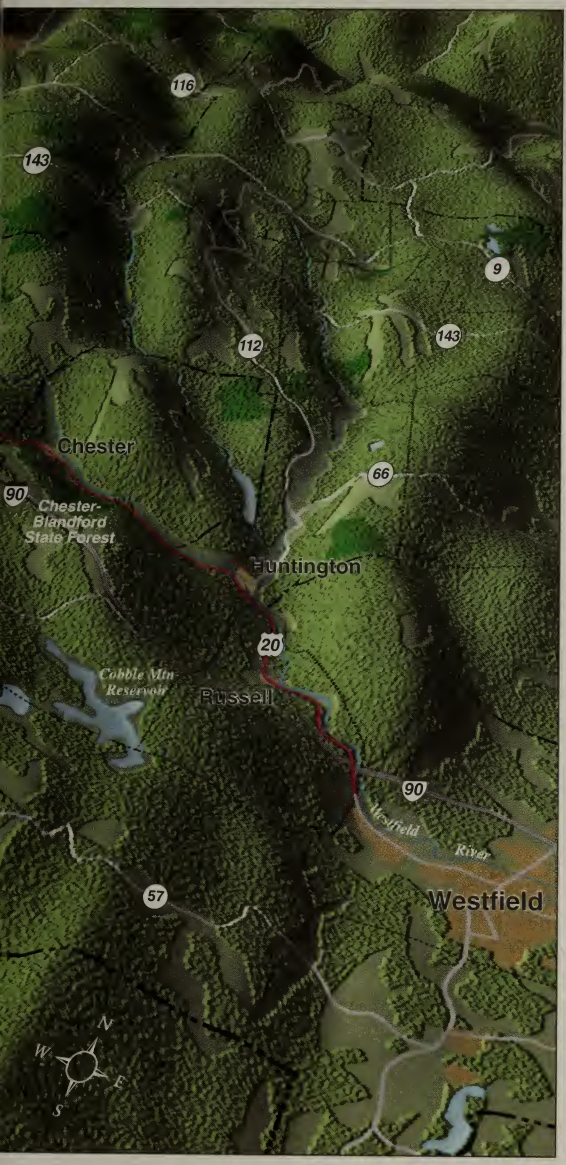
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Chester-
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Huntington
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Cobble Mtn
Reservoir
Russell
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Westfield
River
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Westfield
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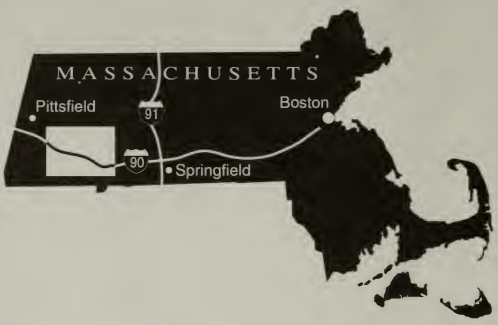


HOW TO GET TO THE TRAIL

The Jacob's Ladder Trail area is located in the western part of Massachusetts straddling Berkshire, Hampshire and Hampden Counties and is accessible from a number of State or Interstate highways, depending on the direction of travel. Massachusetts Turnpike I-90 has interchanges on the eastern and westernmost ends of Jacob's Ladder Trail. These points include Interchange 3 in Westfield, which requires a 3-mile ride to Route 20 as well as Interchange 2 in Lee, which enters directly onto Jacob's Ladder Trail.

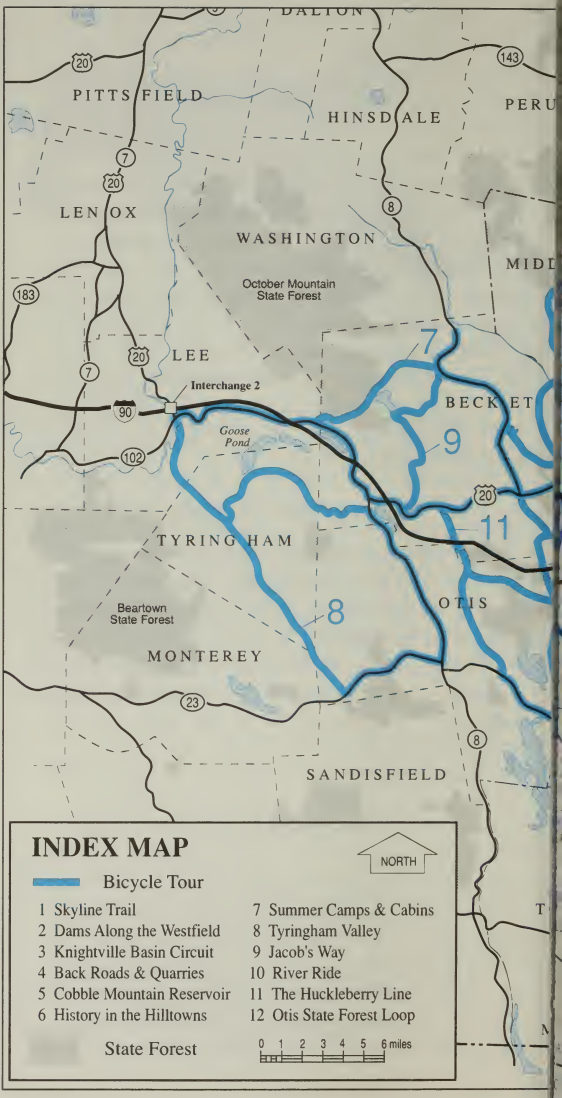
HISTORY

"Jacob's Ladder Trail" refers to the nearly 33 mile section of U.S. Highway Route 20 between the towns of Russell and Lee. The section of highway between Russell and Chester was originally a series of Native American trails running along the Westfield River. During the Plantation Period (1620-1675) a series of regional trails connected Springfield and Pittsfield,

and during the Colonial Period (1675-1775) trails were developed as the Westfield River Highway. During the Revolutionary War the trail served as the main supply route for Revolutionary troops from Fort Ticonderoga, and in 1799 it became the Eighth Massachusetts Turnpike. By 1904 the Western Massachusetts Street Railway Company was running streetcars along "The Scenic Trolley Route of New England" between Westfield and Huntington. On September 10, 1910 this segment of Route 20 was dedicated by Marguerite Westinghouse (wife of the founder of the Westinghouse Electric Company) for the state of Massachusetts as Jacob's Ladder Trail, the first of the great state mountain crossovers and a state scenic automobile highway. The Trail cost $100,000 and was called the most traveled mountain road in America.

JACOB'S LADDER

Various stories explain how this roadway came to be called Jacob's Ladder Trail, the name used for the past 80 years. In one commonly accepted version a man, either by the name of Jacob or who looked like the Prophet Jacob, used his team of oxen to draw the automobiles of urbanites up the steep grades of the highway. The highway was so long and steep, that early automobiles of the 20th century could not make it all the way to the top; the last stretch of hill into Becket was so steep that it was referred to as a ladder. Another possible history of the name, also involving reference to high elevation, is drawn from the Biblical Old Testament story of Jacob. Jacob dreamed of a ladder being placed upon the earth, the top of the ladder reaching up to heaven, and angels climbing up and down between heaven and earth. "Jacob's Ladder" served as the gateway to Heaven. To many residents, this seemed to be a particularly appropriate nickname for the steep road.


DALTON
PITTSFIELD
HINSDALE
PERU
LENOX
WASHINGTON
MIDDL
October Mountain
State Forest
LEE
Interchange 2
BECKET
Goose
Pond
TYRINGHAM
OTIS
Beartown
State Forest
MONTEREY
SANDISFIELD
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NORTH
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2 Dams Along the Westfield
3 Knightville Basin Circuit
4 Back Roads & Quarries
5 Cobble Mountain Reservoir
6 History in the Hilltowns
7 Summer Camps & Cabins
8 Tyringham Valley
9 Jacob's Way
10 River Ride
11 The Huckleberry Line
12 Otis State Forest Loop
State Forest
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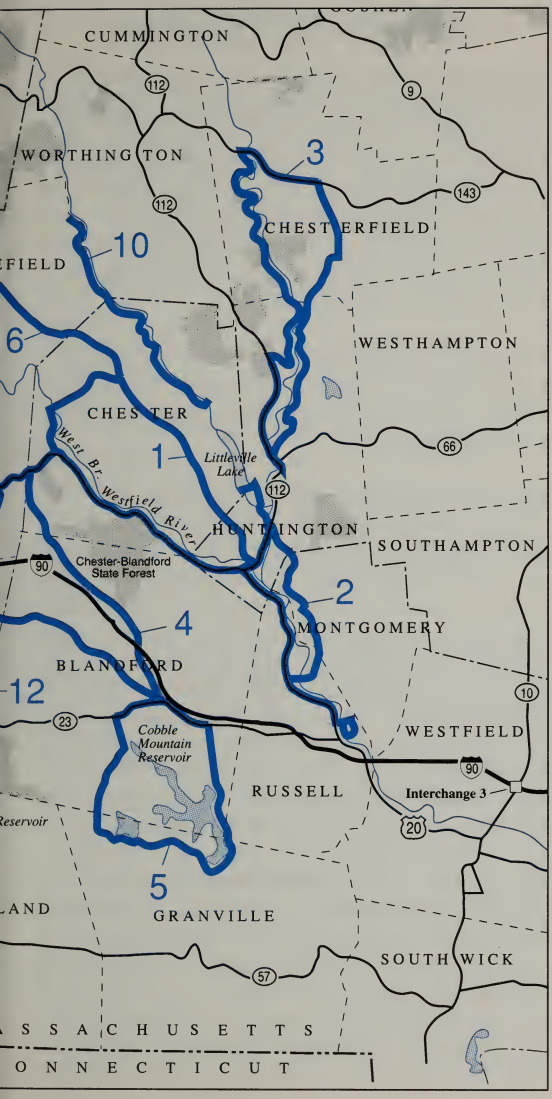
CUMMINGTON
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WORTHINGTON
3
112
143
CHESTERFIELD
10
FIELD
6
WESTHAMPTON
CHESTER
66
West Br. Westfield River
1
Littleville Lake
112
HUNTINGTON
SOUTHAMPTON
90
Chester-Blandford State Forest
2
4
MONTGOMERY
BLANDFORD
12
10
23
Cobble Mountain Reservoir
WESTFIELD
90
RUSSELL
Interchange 3
Reservoir
20
5
LAND
GRANVILLE
SOUTH WICK
57
ASSACHUSETTS
ONNECTICUT

How To Use This Book

These tours provide an opportunity to explore the natural and scenic beauty of the Jacob's Ladder Trail and its surrounding areas. The 12 selected tours vary in length, with most occuring as loops in the 20 mile range. Steep inclines and descents, along with winding and narrow roads are characteristic of portions of many of the rides. However, many a hidden treasure of scenic beauty and years gone by can be found on every stretch.

This book was designed to be used as a companion while on a bike or in a car. The compact size will allow it to be carried in a pocket, backpack, pouch or glove compartment.

Each individual tour description includes a brief overview and summary of the ride, a route profile, identification of points of interest, a map of the route and a detailed description of the ride and its highlights. A three-dimensional map of the Jacob's Ladder Trail area depicts the topography of the area including some of the major destination points. The three-dimensional map, along with the route profiles are presented in an exaggerated scale. This allows those areas of incline or decline to stand out more clearly. In reality, the topography is not quite as steep as displayed in this book. After following one or two of these routes, you will be able to judge the degree of exaggeration.

The appendices include information on where to obtain a variety of local services such as food, gas and lodging as well as other local points of interest.

Safety Precautions

Many of these tours have segments which are narrow, winding, have limited sight distance and graveled surface. On some of the paved routes, the surface itself varies from patchy and broken to newly paved. Shoulder conditions tend to follow a similar pattern going from wide to narrow and paved to gravel or stone. Steep ascents and descents, most often over short distances, are typical of most of the tours. Extreme caution is warranted on these segments. It is also cautioned that some of the graveled or dirt roads may have severe limitations during the wetter parts of the year. Similarly, keen alert is required along the Route 20 shoulders and other paved segments due to their narrowness in some cases and presence of parallel-running storm drain grates in others. In parking your automobile, please be sensitive to private landowners and respect their property. When traveling these various routes, as in most, the cyclist must remain aware of his/her surroundings and the road that is being traveled upon.

DISCLAIMER

The information presented in this book is intended to assist in the selection of rides which exemplify the natural and scenic beauty of the Jacob's Ladder Trail area. In no way does the suggestion of these routes guarantee the safety of the rider. With the exception of one flat tour, these rides are designed to be used by those individuals who are experienced in bike safety and are recreational to experienced riders. As with any recreational or sporting activity, the individual assumes a certain level of risk in participating in that activity. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission assumes no liability for any individual using these suggested tours.

TOUR ONE

Skyline Trail

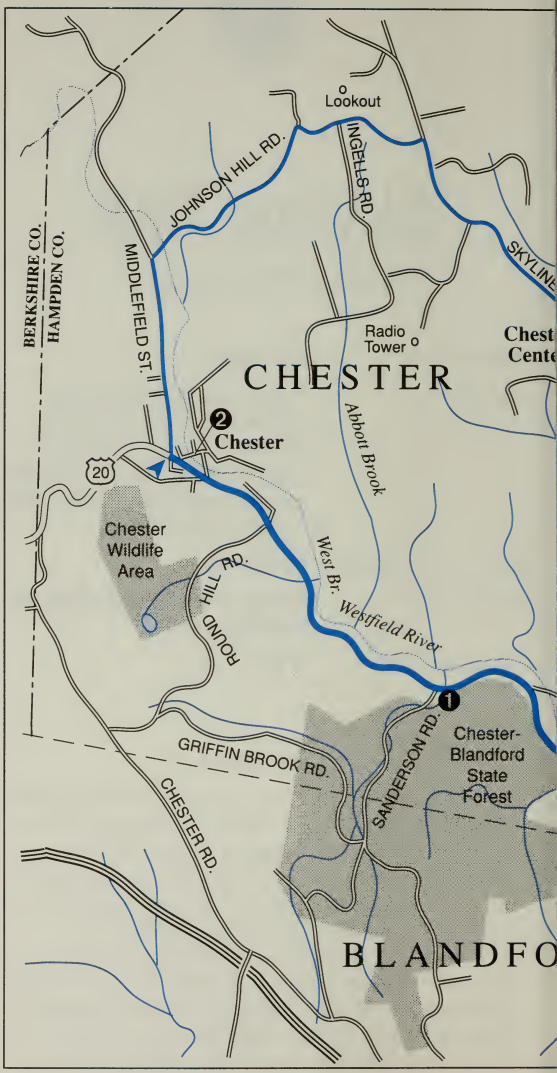
Chester-Huntington

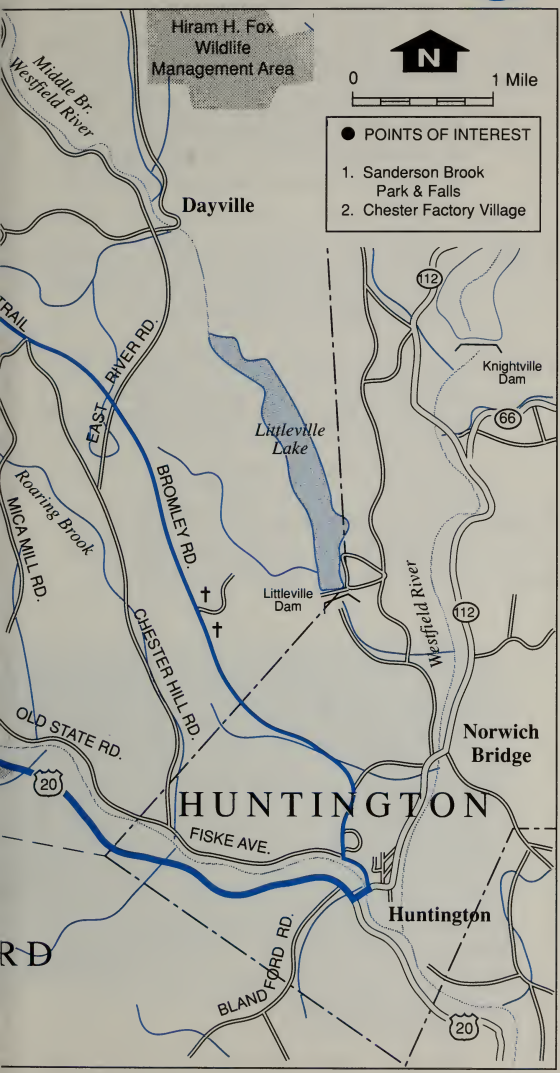
Distance:	**18.6 miles**
Terrain:	**One demanding hill at the beginning of the route; followed by speedy downhill & gently rolling ride on country roads. Long flat return along the Westfield River.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Moderate**
Road Surface:	**Mostly paved; approximately 2 miles graveled**
Pedaling Time:	**2 1/2 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

This route follows the crest of Skyline Trail and offers splendid views across the valley formed by the Westfield River. It begins in historic Chester Factory Village and passes some of Chester's early industrial and railroad buildings before it climbs to upland livestock farms, blueberry fields and open pastures. Along the Trail you will also see Chester Center, an intact 18th century village as well as several old burial grounds, sheep and cattle farms. From the Huntington village common, the route follows the scenic Westfield River where there are picnic spots along the way.

Tour Map One – Skyline Trail




Hiram H. Fox
Wildlife
Management Area
N
0
1 Mile
POINTS OF INTEREST
1. Sanderson Brook
Park & Falls
2. Chester Factory Village
Middle Br.
Westfield River
Dayville
TRAIL
EAST RIVER RD.
Littleville
Lake
BROMLEY RD.
Roaring Brook
MICA MILL RD.
CHESTER HILL RD.
Littleville
Dam
112
Knightville
Dam
66
Westfield River
112
Norwich
Bridge
OLD STATE RD.
20
HUNTINGTON
FISKE AVE.
Huntington
RD
BLANDFORD RD.
20

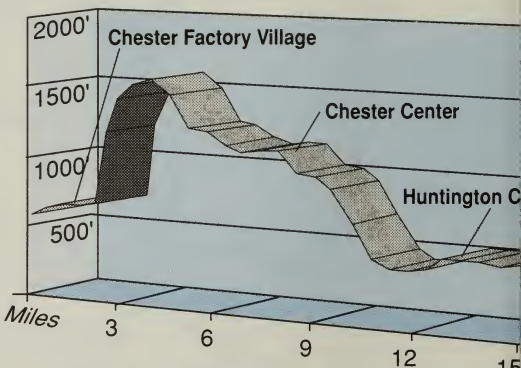
TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. **Start in Chester at the corner of Route 20 and Middlefield Street.** You can park on Middlefield Street; then head north. This road is a mile of flat land which follows the railroad line now owned by Conrail but originally built by the Western Railroad in the 1840s.

0.3 mi. On the left is a stone house which was built at the turn of the century as a mineralogical museum and now is a private home.

0.5 mi. On the right look across the stream through the trees to see the railroad roundhouse which was built in 1853 to house the engines which pushed railroad cars up Washington Mountain northeast of town.

0.6 mi. On the right is an abrasives factory which has been in operation since its founding in 1901 when it used locally mined emery.



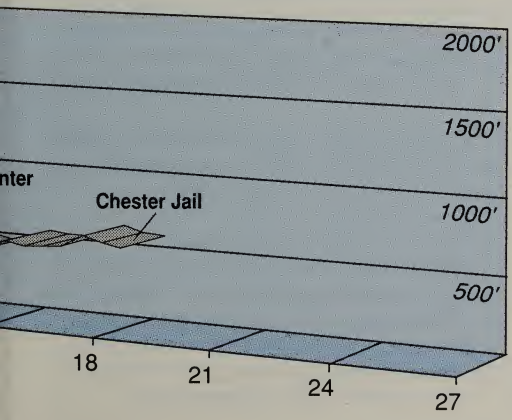
Tour Profile

Tour One – Skyline Trail

1.6 mi. **Take a right on to Johnson Hill Road just after the bridge.** This is a paved road for about a half mile and then turns into a graveled dirt road at the 2.0 mi. point. The road climbs steeply for 1.8 miles up Quigley Hill and follows the Otis Wait Brook.

3.4 mi. At the summit you will cross over Ingells Road. In the distance you will be looking across the Middle Branch of the Westfield River towards Goss Hill, and Little Canada Hill in Hampshire County and Hickory Mountain in Hampden County. Turn and look in the opposite direction and you will see from the south Cobble Mountain, West Hill and Bear Mountain on the north.

4.1 mi. **Turn right at the end of Johnson Hill Road.** This is Skyline Trail which is also known as Chester Hill Road, a paved road which descends to Huntington along a series of hills, the last of which is known as Great Moose Hill.



5.3 mi. High Meadow Farm spreads out on both sides of the road. This is where one can in season pick strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and apples; buy maple syrup made in the sugar shack next to the road; and get fresh eggs.

6.1 mi. Chester Center. This is Chester's original town center. **Bear right into the village.** On your right is the Georgian 1769 house of Rev. Aaron Bascom, then the 1840 Congregational Church which was built as an exact duplicate by Henry Sykes of a church he built for New Marlborough, and on the left is a 1787 Georgian saltbox cape house. Across from the church is the cemetery which contains good examples of 18th century carved slate gravestones with angel heads and floral motifs. **Go back to the fork in the road and take Bromley Road which follows behind the village.**

7.2 mi. At the junction with East River Road look left for one of the ride's more distant views towards the town of Chesterfield. East River Road leads to Dayville, where there is fishing, boating, & picnic sites on Littleville Lake. The lake is a dammed up section of the Middle Branch of the Westfield River.

7.5 mi. Blueberry fields are on the left and are part of a Bicentennial farm (a farm owned by the same family for over 200 years.)

8.5 mi. On the left side of the road is a classic, south-facing Greek Revival house, followed by two cemeteries, the smaller of which was moved here in 1964 to make way for the Littleville Lake. They both contain mid-19th century stones with good examples of the weeping willow and urn motifs.

Further down the road look for a boulder on the left side which is boldly painted with "C/ H" marking the boundary between Chester and Huntington.

10.6 mi. At the foot of the hill Bromley Road joins with Basket Street. **Bear right on to Basket Street.**

11.1 mi. Basket Street crosses Fiske Ave. which becomes Old State Road. *An alternate route: turn right and follow Fiske Ave. along the north side of the river to rejoin Route 20 further on.*

11.4 mi. **Turn right to cross the Route 112 bridge.** Directly in front of you is a good example of the typical hilltown practice of converting residential buildings to mixed commercial use.

11.5 mi. **At the end of the bridge, turn right onto Route 20**. This is Huntington Center. On the right behind the town common is Stanton Hall, the former Grange Hall, which began life in 1849 as the Second Congregational Church and has been rehabilitated for community use. On the left is the Bantam Rooster, a good restaurant stop.

12.9 mi. Route 20 heading towards Chester is flat and follows the railroad and river once again. Note the keystone arched culvert on your right. It is one of the few remaining culverts from the 1840s construction of the railroad and uses the same construction technique as the mammoth stone arched bridges of the railroad further along in Chester, Middlefield and Becket. The father of American painter James McNeil Whistler designed these bridges.

13.7 mi. On the left is the first of three entrances to the Chester-Blandford State Forest which covers most of Green Hill and Round Top Hill.

15.2 mi. *The alternative route along Old State Road rejoins Route 20 here.* If you detour down to the bridge at this point, there is a particularly good view of the Westfield River.

15.7 mi. On the right is Bannish Lumber Company which logs and sells hardwood for fine furniture.

15.8 mi. On the left is the entrance to Sanderson Brook Park and falls. It is less than a mile's hike to the falls.

16.9 mi. On your right is a river overlook where there is good public access to the river.

18 mi. On the right is a Georgian house which originally was an inn. Just beyond the house was where the 1895 Chester and Becket Granite Railroad left Chester on its way to the Becket quarries. The railroad bed is visible in some seasons as it follows Route 20 on the south. Now you will pass a number of Chester's well-preserved Queen Anne houses and the Chester Factory Village Cemetery. Watch on the right for the Toll House of c.1780 where tolls were collected from travelers when it was the Russell-Becket toll road of 1804.

18.3 mi. As the road curves to the right into Chester is Carms Restaurant, a virtually unchanged gas station/restaurant which dates from the 1920s when the automobile made Jacob's Ladder Trail famous. Yankee Magazine has

recognized Carms as one of the top 13 breakfast-lunch restaurants in New England.

18.5 mi. The Chester Jail, built in 1840, is on the right. The small brick building and its single jail cell has been restored and is open to visitors. Hours are posted on the entry.

18.6 mi. **Take a right on to Main Street to Chester Factory Village center** where you will find Pease General Store, the Chester Inn, Long Horn Saloon and the Chester Railroad Station. This town center has been preserved from its era of greatest activity which was sparked by the arrival of the railroad in 1841. Classic Pizza on the right is a good stop.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Chester Factory Village**. A mid-19th century village with one of Massachusetts' oldest railroad depots, a former inn, and a largely unchanged general store.
- **Chester-Blandford State Forest**. A 2,308 acre park with camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking and cross-country skiing.
- **Sanderson Brook Park**. A park in the State Forest with spectacular falls reached by a hiking trail.
- **Chester Center.** A well-preserved, late 18th century village.
- **Huntington Center.** A small town on the Westfield River with several prominent church spires.
- **Westfield River**. A nationally designated Wild and Scenic River.

TOUR TWO

Dams Along The Westfield

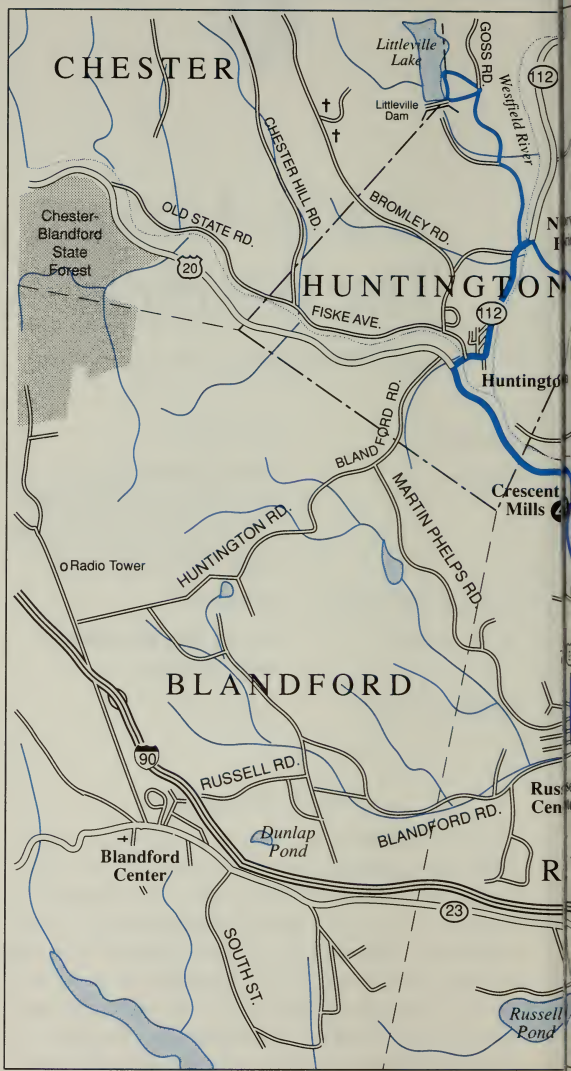
Russell-Montgomery-Huntington

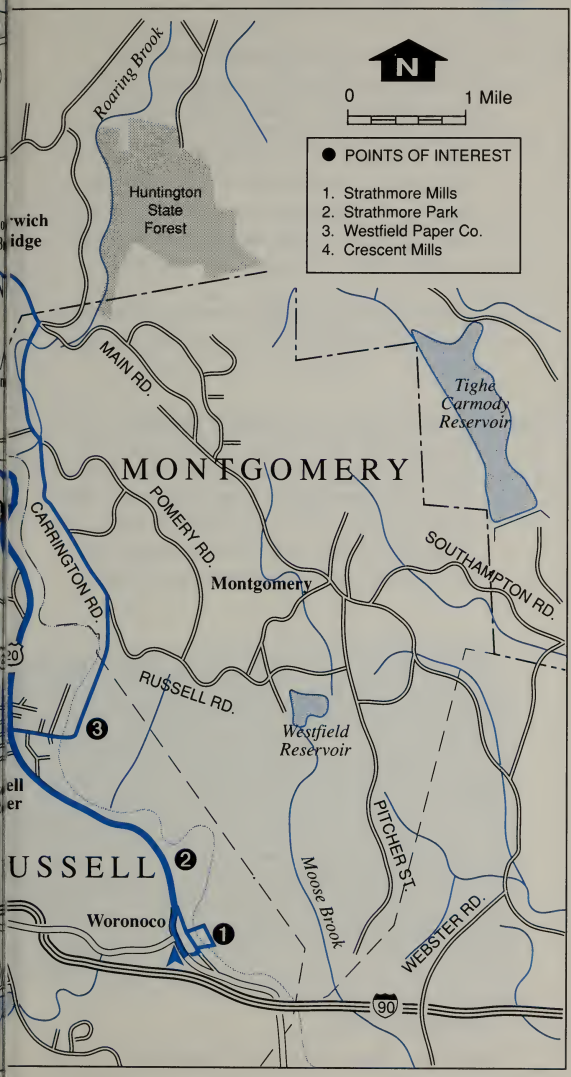
Distance:	**20.7 miles**
Terrain:	**Rolling hills through woodland; one challenging hill and a relatively flat, scenic stretch along the river.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Moderate**
Road Surface:	**Paved with less than 1/2 mile graveled.**
Pedaling Time:	**3 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

The Westfield River and a series of striking 19th and 20th century dams is the focus of this tour. The route passes three of Russell's early water-powered paper industries, rises above the river to pass through wooded hillsides, threading its way back and forth across the Bearden and Roaring Brooks in Montgomery. A stop on the Underground Railroad, an 1800 schoolhouse museum, and a vast lake created by the Littleville Dam are among the significant sights along the route.

Tour Map Two – Dams Along The Westfield



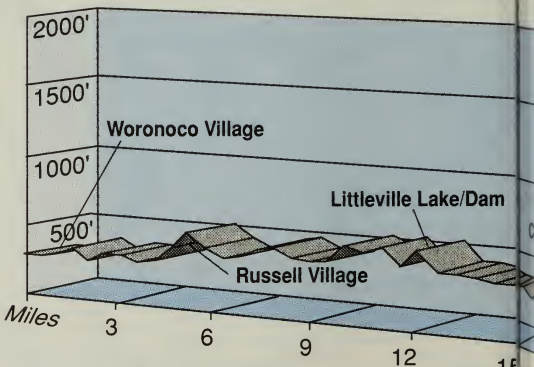

N
0
1 Mile
POINTS OF INTEREST
1. Strathmore Mills
2. Strathmore Park
3. Westfield Paper Co.
4. Crescent Mills
Roaring Brook
Huntington State Forest
MAIN RD.
Tighe Carmody Reservoir
MONTGOMERY
POMERY RD.
CARRINGTON RD.
Montgomery
SOUTHAMPTON RD.
RUSSELL RD.
Westfield Reservoir
PITCHER ST.
Moose Brook
WEBSTER RD.
Woronoco
90

TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. This tour starts at the Strathmore Paper Company in Woronoco Village in the town of Russell. Take Woronoco Road from Route 20 at the Strathmore Paper Company sign, and park near the brick post office. Paper mill companies have been using the water power from the Salmon Falls here since 1872 and the central part of this mill complex dates from that first company.

Start this ride by going west on Woronoco Road. The Westfield River will be on your right.

0.4 mi. **Take a right turn on to the one lane bridge across the river.** This bridge was built as a temporary bridge after the flood of 1955 which washed out one bridge and damaged a second. The same flood re-routed the river at this point and required construction of a second dam across the river, the dam



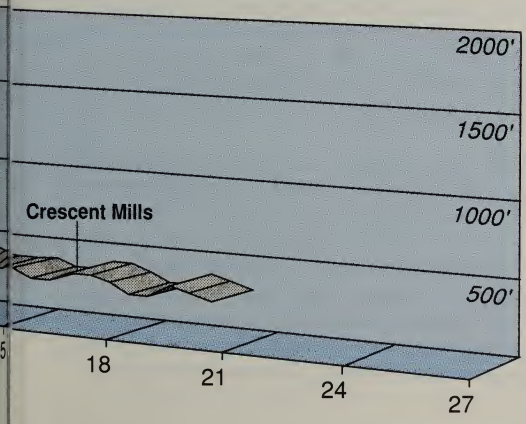
Tour Profile

Tour Two – Dams Along the Westfield

closer to the road. After the bridge you are on Valley View Avenue which has workers' housing which dates c. 1913. At one time the Strathmore Paper Company provided housing, a community center, sports teams, clubs and a company park for its employees.

0.8 mi. **Bear right to the concrete bridge** which is closed to vehicles, but open to pedestrians. From this bridge is a spectacular view of the river and geological formations underlying it. Cross the bridge and turn right to retrace your way, but this time go straight at the temporary metal bridge.

1.7 mi. **Take a right on Route 20**. There is a wide shoulder at this section of Route 20 but it is not consistent and traffic can be heavy, so it is wise to bike single file.



2.0 mi. On the right is Strathmore Park which is now owned by the Town of Russell At its company-owned heyday it had a horse racing track beside the river.

3.8 mi. **Turn right at Our Lady of the Rosary Church on to unmarked Main Street of Russell Center.** This is a village which grew up when the railroad came in 1841 and is the only one of its neighbors which has kept several of its industries since migration to the south in the 1950s. Follow Main Street past the 1853 Greek Revival Russell Community Church and the 1915 Town Hall to cross the bridge at the end of town.

4.4 mi. **Turn left on to Carrington Road.** On the right is the Westfield River Paper Company which makes glassine paper used in candy wrappers such as Reese's Pieces. The mill buildings were the original Blandford Brick and Tile Company which was built in the 1870s and made yellow brick for the addition to the State House in Boston. Carrington Road follows rolling hills and crosses several brooks which feed the Westfield River.

8.1 mi. Carrington Road ends at Main Road. **Take a left.**

9.2 mi. Main Road ends at Route 112. **Take a left turn and then take the first right after the bridge towards the Littleville Dam.** Gateway Regional High School will be on your left. At the corner, note the old schoolhouse. It was the Norwich Bridge School built in 1800 and is now used by the Huntington Historical Society as a museum and archives for its historical collection.

10.1 mi. **Take a right at Goss Hill Road.** You will see a sign towards Littleville Dam just before the bridge. Follow Goss Hill Road up a steep incline.

10.7 mi. **Take a left to Littleville Lake at the sign.** There are two drives at the road. The first leads to the dam itself and the second leads down to a parking lot beside the lake. Follow the road to the dam for the best view of this engineering feat, a rolled earth/rock covered dam built in 1965. Continue the tour by retracing your way along Goss Hill Road back to Route 112.

12.8 mi. **Turn right on Route 112.** Shortly after the turn on the right is the Huntington Country Store and Inn. The store was built as an inn c.1790 and is thought to have taken in slaves on the Underground Railroad. This is a good stop for ice cream and the store has local crafts. Other places to stop ahead for picnic food are Moltenbrey's Market and the Huntington Shops.

14.2 mi. Route 112 intersects with Route 20. **Take a left on Route 20, which is known as Jacob's Ladder Trail.** There are beautiful views of the river on this section of the tour and several places to stop for a picnic.

15.6 mi. Crescent Mills is a village at the Crescent Falls on the Westfield River. In 1870 these mill buildings were constructed on the site of several earlier mills. Texon makes a leatherette paper often used inside shoes. Note the small family burial ground on the left. It has seven stones, all c. 1831 in date. The road back to Woronoco from here is generally downhill but the shoulder can be narrow, so be wary.

20.0 mi. **Turn left at Woronoco Road to return to the start.**

20.7 mi. **End of the ride.**

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Woronoco Village**. Home of the Strathmore Paper Company and site of the Salmon Falls.
- **Westfield River**. A nationally designated Wild and Scenic River.
- **Littleville Lake**. A 275 acre pond used for fishing, skating, and boating. Trout stocked.
- **Littleville Dam.** A 1965 flood control dam 1,360 feet long with public access.
- **Crescent Mills**. A mill village with early 20th century workers' housing and a small 19th century burial ground.

TOUR THREE

Knightville Basin Off-Road Circuit

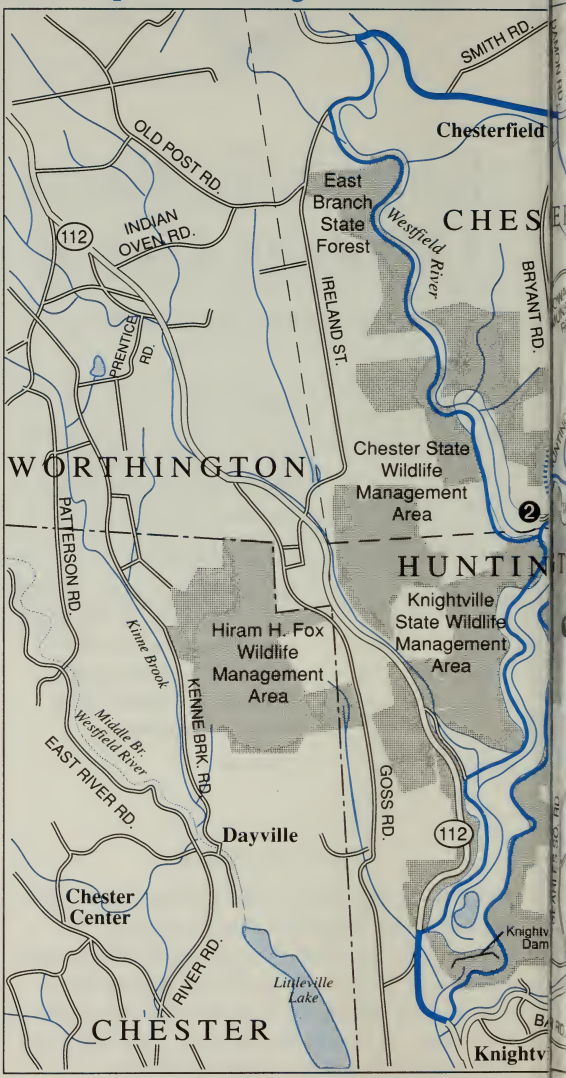
Huntington-Chesterfield

Distance:	**Approximately 20 miles**
Terrain:	**Short stretch of steep uphill, then relatively even with plenty of climbs, but none too difficult.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Easy to Moderate.**
Road Surface:	**Mostly single track cart and logging dirt roads which are well-blazed but not well-traveled. A stream and a river to ford make this a summer route only.**
Pedaling Time:	**4 hours**

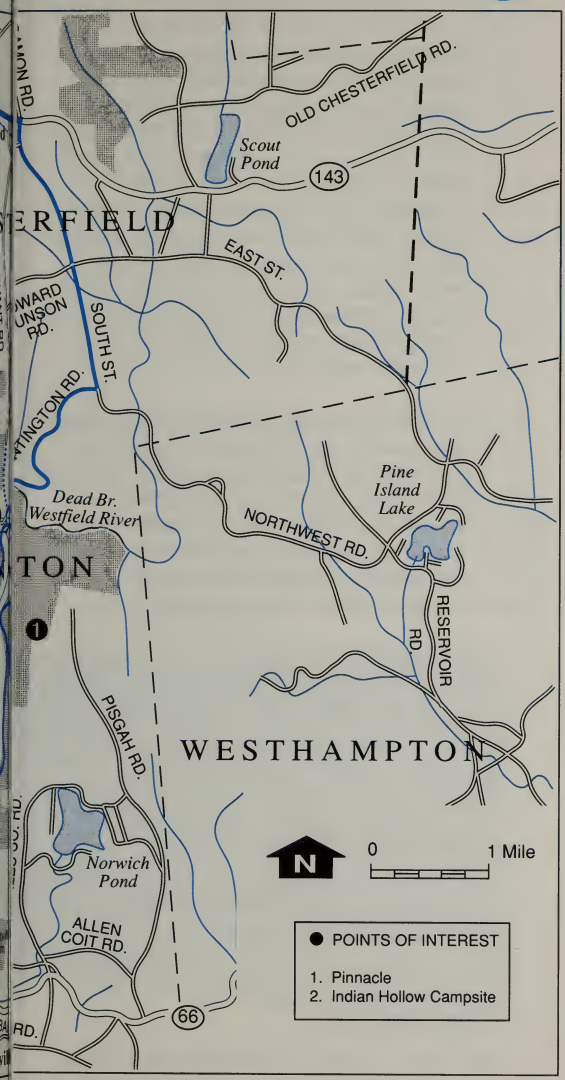
TOUR SUMMARY

This off-road bike route makes a circuit of the scenically outstanding Knightville Basin along the East Branch of the Westfield River through northern hardwood forest. It fords Florida Brook and the Dead Branch of the Westfield River and offers an ascent which rises 700 feet to the Pinnacle for distant views of Mt. Greylock and the Knightville Basin.

Tour Map Three – Knightville Basin Off-R



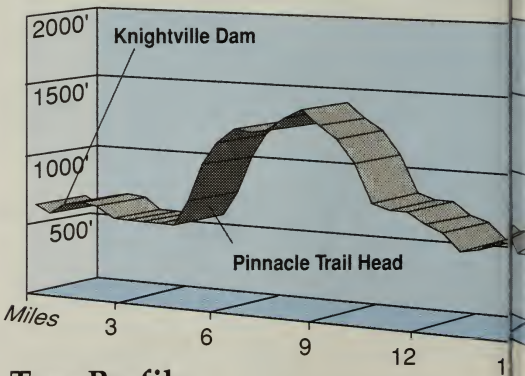
d Circuit


OLD CHESTERFIELD RD.
Scout Pond
143
ERFIELD
EAST ST.
WARD
UNSON
RD.
SOUTH ST.
TINGTON RD.
Dead Br.
Westfield River
TON
Pine
Island
Lake
NORTHWEST RD.
RESERVOIR
RD.
1
PISGAH RD.
WESTHAMPTON
N
0
1 Mile
Norwich
Pond
ALLEN
COIT RD.
66
RD.
POINTS OF INTEREST
1. Pinnacle
2. Indian Hollow Campsite

TOUR NARRATIVE

This ride begins at the Knightville Dam in Huntington and is reached by taking an access road from Route 112 north of Huntington Center. Park in the lot and head north up the road past the dam. The earth-fill dam was built in 1941 for flood protection, and its gates are normally kept open so the river flows unimpeded. During the winter, however, a pool is collected which is then released in April and used for canoe and kayak races. Annual run-off leads to short term flooding of about 470 acres above the dam.

At the hiker/horse trail sign take a right. There are blazes on the trees to mark the route, but you must watch carefully for them as the path becomes less well-defined further into the ride. **Cross Florida Brook.** On the far side of the Brook, the vehicle road ends to become a single track. There is a short stretch of very steep uphill here.



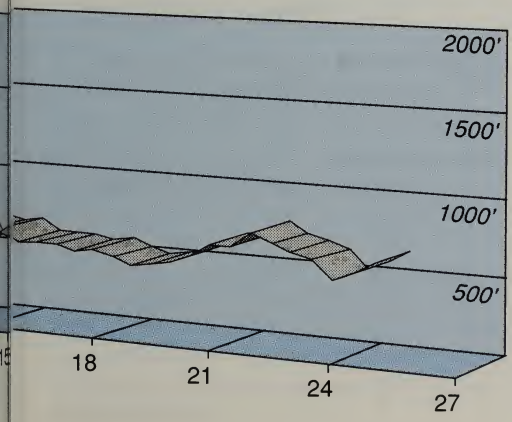
Tour Profile

Tour Three – Knighville Basin Off-road Circuit

Approximately four miles from the start will be a sign to the Pinnacle .7 mi. This trail is too steep for all but the most experienced riders but makes a good hike. At the top one can see as far as Mt. Greylock, perhaps into Vermont and New York.

Go back to the trail which continues about a quarter of a mile to Indian Hollow where the Dead Branch of the Westfield River empties into the East Branch. At Indian Hollow is a group campsite maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers and the river bed widens enough here to allow fording across both branches of the River.

Alternative #1 is to cross the East Branch of the Westfield River at this point and to follow the Army Corps of Engineers road south along the west bank to the area of the dam, where it exits to Route 112 in Huntington. About a mile south on Route 112 is the marked Knightville Dam access road. This alternative gives the rider an approximately 10 mile loop.



For the full circuit, go north and **cross the Dead Branch,** following Huntington Road on the other side of the river about 1.6 miles to South Street in Chesterfield. **Take a left on South Street for about 2 miles to Route 143 in the center of town. Take a left on 143 and follow it to the bottom of the hill which is approximately 2.5 miles. Take a left on Ireland Street. Follow Ireland Street 1 mi. and take a left on River Road**. This road turns into the Army Corps Road and follows the west bank of the river back to Route 112 as above. There is a small picnic area maintained at the dam.

Alternative #2 is to cross the Dead Branch as for the full circuit ride, but to take a left on the first trail which is Bryant Road. This is a tough climb which goes directly to Route 143 and cuts a few miles off the route, but avoids town center and offers additional hill work.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Knightville Dam.** A 1,200 feet long earth embankment which stores water during flood conditions in a 6 mile long reservoir.
- **Knightville Basin.** A 162 square mile area of second growth forest which is habitat to native New England fish and wildlife. Pheasant and trout stocked.
- **The Pinnacle**. At 1,285 feet, the highest point in the Basin with views to Vermont and New York.

TOUR FOUR

Back Roads & Quarries

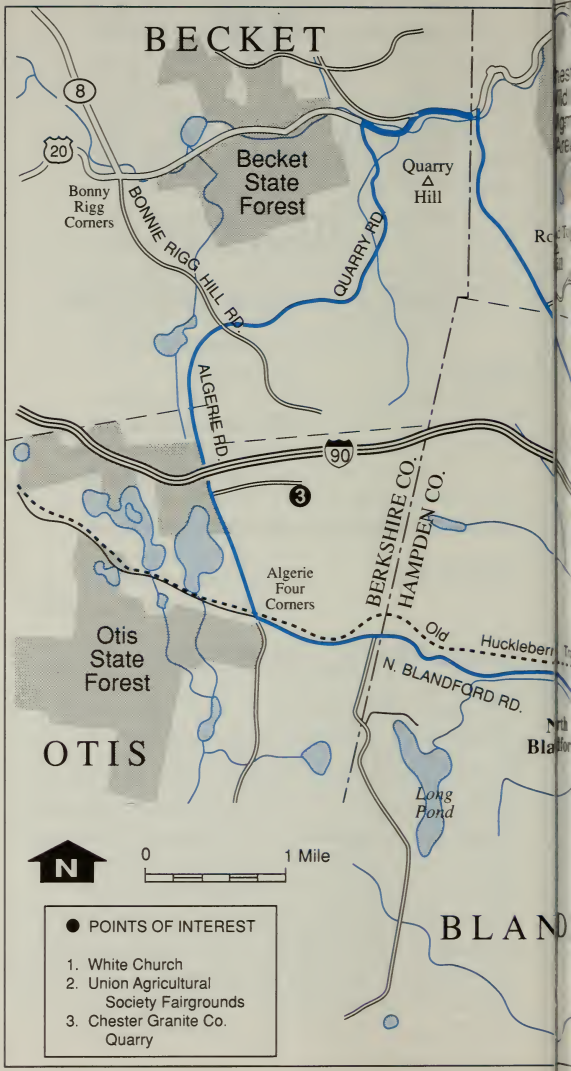
Blandford-Chester-Becket-Otis

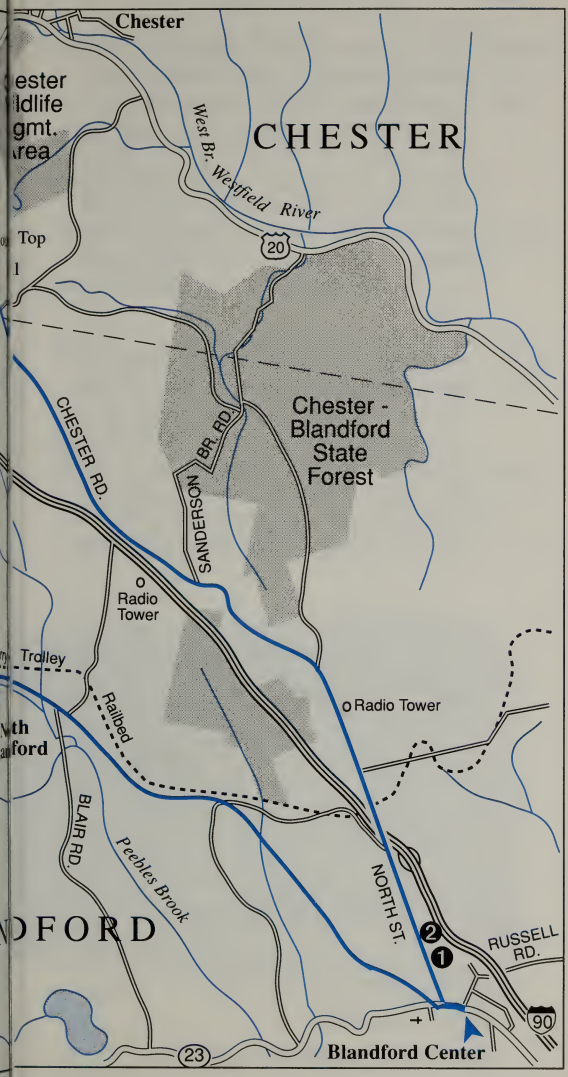
Distance:	**20.2 miles**
Terrain:	**Hilly and challenging, with restful section mid-ride through curving back roads.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Moderate to Difficult**
Road Surface:	**Mostly paved; approximately 2 1/2 miles graveled**
Pedaling Time:	**3 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

From hilltown farms to granite quarries and beaver ponds, this route covers some of the most interesting of the area's natural history. It begins in Blandford, a town which became a turn of the century summer retreat for city people, and follows the crest of Blandford's Dug Hill before it shoots down the side of Round Top Hill to Chester. Back up Quarry Hill, the route levels out and passes through pastoral back roads in Becket and Otis before it heads back to Blandford past several ponds well-known by bird watchers and hikers.

Tour Map Four - Back Roads & Quarries

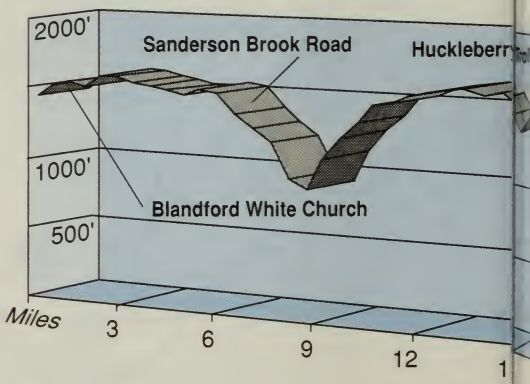



Chester
ester
ldlife
gmt.
rea
CHESTER
West Br. Westfield River
Top
1
20
Chester - Blandford State Forest
CHESTER RD.
SANDERSON BR. RD.
Radio Tower
Trolley
Railbed
Radio Tower
th
ford
BLAIR RD.
Pebbles Brook
NORTH ST.
RUSSELL RD.
DFORD
23
90
Blandford Center

TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. This tour starts at the Blandford Post Office parking lot at the corner of Route 23 and Russell Road. Blandford was settled in 1736 and Route 23 was a stage coach road. Several of the houses in the center of town served as taverns and inns during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Across the street, note the town's Romanesque Revival library which manages to be both large in presence and petite in scale. **Head west on Route 23.**

0.2 mi. **At the top of the hill at the blinking yellow light take a right on to North Street.** There is a short steep incline at the top of which is the White Church, a Greek Revival building designed by Isaac Damon, in 1822. The church is on the National Register of Historic Places. Just beyond the church is the Union Agricultural Society fairgrounds



Tour Profile

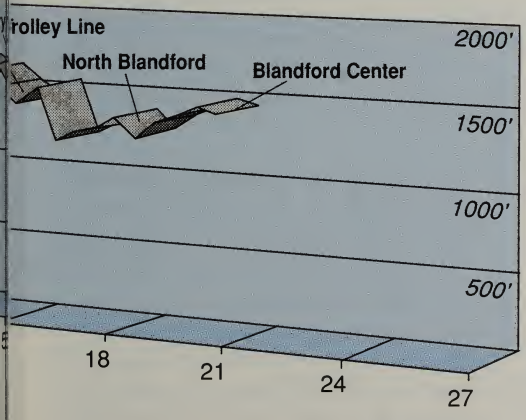
Tour Four – Back Roads & Quarries

whose annual exhibition is on Labor Day weekend. North Street has several of the region's best examples of Craftsman and Bungalow houses, some of which were built as summer homes in the first decades of the 20th century.

0.8 mi. A broad view on the right extends into Hampshire County and the town of Huntington. North Street becomes Chester Road after it crosses the Massachusetts Turnpike.

3.7 mi. Sanderson Brook Road on the right leads into the Chester-Blandford State Forest and to Sanderson Brook Falls about 2.6 miles away.

5.7 mi. At this point begins the descent to Chester. It is steep and can be thrilling. Watch out for the short graveled section near the bottom at a small bridge.



7.9 mi. At the foot of the hill on the right you will see a granite stone embankment. This is a trestle foundation for the Chester Becket Granite Railway which was built c. 1895 to carry granite from Becket to the railroad in Chester. Sparks from a steam engine burned down the sawmill which was on the left side of the road. **Take a left on Route 20** and from time to time through the trees you will be able to see the old rail bed which is still mostly cleared and makes its way uphill to the quarries in Becket.

8.9 mi. **Make a left turn on Quarry Road.** This is the most challenging climb of the tour and lasts for .3 mile. Part way up on the right there is an opening in the vegetation where you can see the rail bed which climbed this hill too. One small quarry is visible on the left side of the road after the summit.

11.4 mi. Quarry Road ends here at the intersection with Bonny Rigg Hill Road. **Go straight across the intersection to Algerie Road.** For the next few miles the road is gently hilly and passes some of Becket's summer home developments which are out of sight of the road on two large ponds. You will pass the still active Chester Granite Quarry.

13.6 mi. **Take a left at the intersection with North Blandford Road**. This is in Otis. About a quarter of a mile down the road on the left is a high embankment. It is the remaining rail bed of the infamous Huckleberry Trolley Line which cost $3 million to build in 1916 and was used only two seasons before it became apparent that the trolley had lost out in competition with the car. It got its name because it carried mostly children going to

pick huckleberries in the summer. Behind the embankment is a beautiful pond visited often in the summer by the Audubon Society.

16.6 mi. The cluster of Greek Revival houses here constitute what is left of once thriving North Blandford. The City of Springfield bought the surrounding land for watershed and burned down the buildings leaving these few. For the next half mile you will see old stone foundations next to the road.

20.0 mi. **This is an intersection with Route 23. Take a left.** On the right is Blandford's oldest burial ground. It has some excellent examples of early carved head stones including several scroll-topped stones.

20.2 mi. **End of the tour at the Post Office.**

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Blandford.** A town founded by Scotch-Irish in 1736 with a wealth of ponds, woodland and scenic views.
- **Granite Quarries**. Becket and Otis granite quarries mined from the 19th century & an old granite quarry railroad bed which served them.
- **North Blandford.** Foundation remains of a mid-19th century village that had several water powered industries on the streams which continue to run through it.
- **Huckleberry Trolley Line**. Railroad bed of trolley line from Lee to Huntington which was built 1910-16.
- **White Church**. A National Register Greek Revival church of considerable beauty.

TOUR FIVE

Cobble Mountain Reservoir

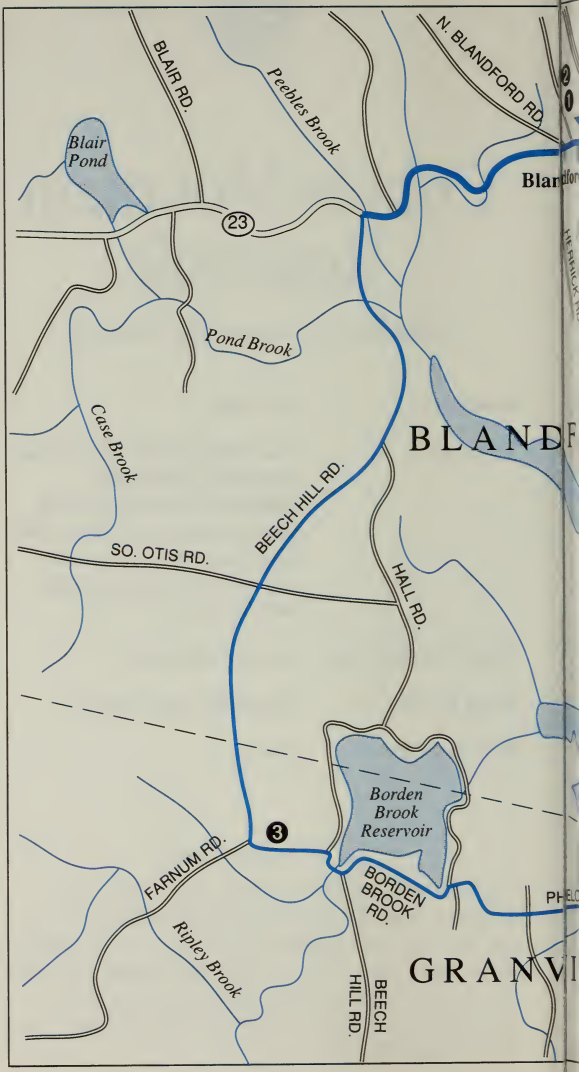
Blandford-Granville-Russell

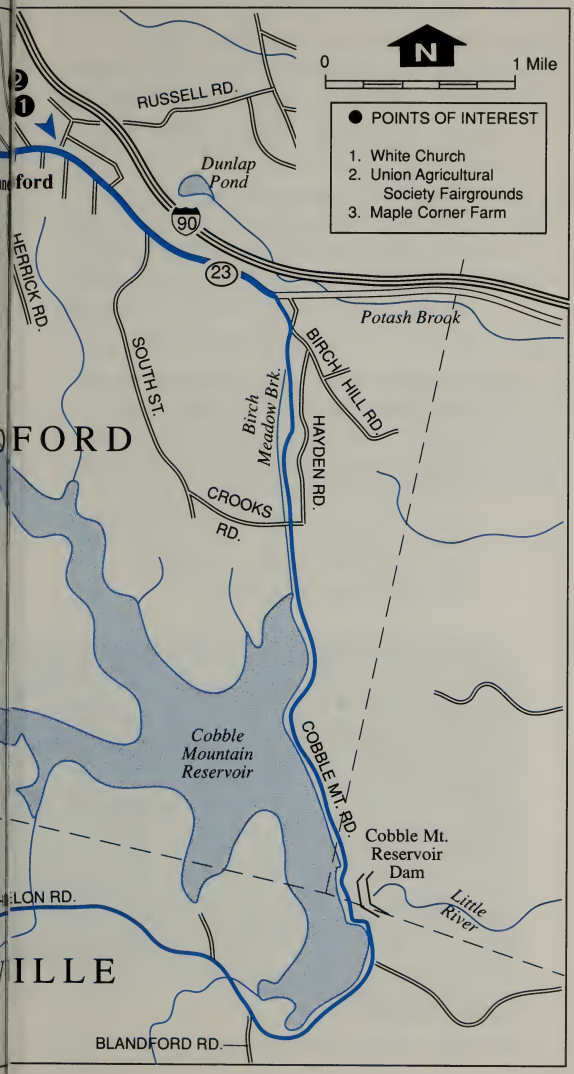
Distance:	**15.5 miles**
Terrain:	**One extended descent at the beginning of the tour followed by gradual uphill climbs and some rolling hills. Reservoir perimeter road rather level. Quick climb back to town.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Easy to Moderate**
Road Surface:	**All paved; some patchy**
Pedaling Time:	**2 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

This route circles the Cobble Mountain Reservoir through second growth forests where old stone walls line the roads and surprising views open up around the corner more than once. It meanders through a red pine plantation, beside a vast inland lake and across an earth-filled dam which was the world's highest at its time of construction.

Tour Map Five – Cobble Mountain Reservoir



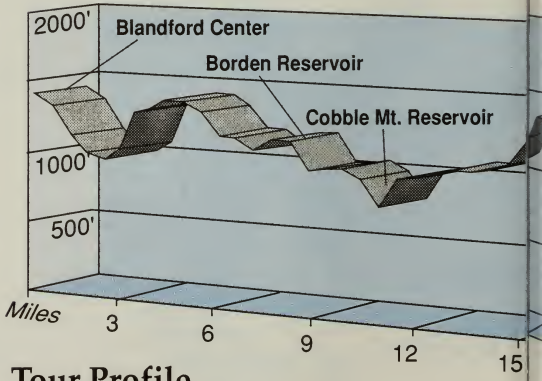

N
0
1 Mile
POINTS OF INTEREST
1. White Church
2. Union Agricultural Society Fairgrounds
3. Maple Corner Farm
RUSSELL RD.
Dunlap Pond
90
23
HERRICK RD.
SOUTH ST.
Birch Meadow Brk.
BIRCH HILL RD.
Potash Brook
HAYDEN RD.
CROOKS RD.
Cobble Mountain Reservoir
COBBLE MT. RD.
Cobble Mt. Reservoir Dam
Little River
BLANDFORD RD.

TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. This ride starts in Blandford. There is parking available in the town center in front of the Post Office at the corner of Route 23 and Russell Road. **Begin by following Route 23 west.**

0.2 mi. As you climb the first hill, on the right behind the yellow blinking light is the old Blandford School which was built c.1755 and now is home to the Blandford Historical Society. After the school, Route 23 descends steeply over the next mile and a half.

1.7 mi. **At the foot of the hill turn left on Beech Hill Road** right after you cross a small bridge. This section of Beech Hill Road passes a number of early farmsteads from the 18th and 19th centuries and views are distant across the cleared fields. Land here wasn't as productive as further down in the Connecticut River valley, so farmers traditionally raised livestock.



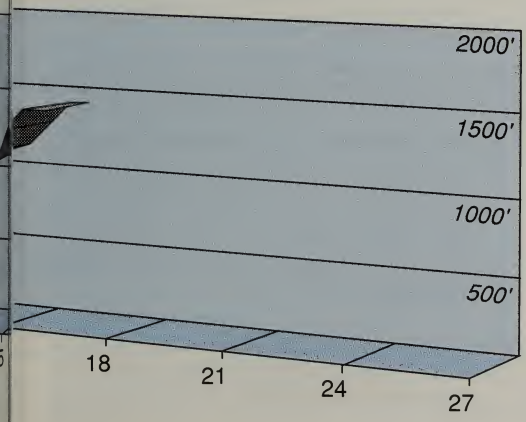
Tour Profile

Tour Five – Cobble Mt. Reservoir

5.1 mi. On the right is a boulder marker for the site of the first Methodist Episcopal Church west of the Connecticut River. One can sense how remote this site would have been, since it has changed little.

5.5 mi. **The road turns sharply left here** and crosses in front of Maple Corner Farm. Syrup and hay are sold here and in the winter, this is a cross-country skiing center. Across the valley to the south one can see Sodom Mountain, Bad Luck Mountain and into the Granville State Forest.

6.1 mi. Once again the road curves to the left. **Bear left on the paved road which becomes Borden Brook Road.** Immediately on the left is Borden Brook Reservoir which is the first of three reservoirs to be built in the area between 1910 and 1932 to supply water for Springfield.



6.8 mi. **Turn right to follow Borden Brook Road.** The reservoir roads are not open to the public here.

7.4 mi. Three roads converge at this point. **Take the second left, unmarked Phelon Road,** a paved road which makes a quick downhill. This is the hilliest section of the ride as the road follows the natural contours of the valley. You will pass a few old farms and apple orchards and at the top of one of the last hills is a fine view of Cobble Mountain.

9.2 mi. Blandford Road intersects with Phelon Road. **Bear to the left following Phelon Road which becomes Cobble Mountain Road.**

9.5 mi. The shores of Cobble Mountain Reservoir are visible on the left. The road is now level for about four and a half miles as it is part of the Reservoir construction.

10.7 mi. The road crosses the top of the main Cobble Mountain Reservoir Dam which was the world's highest earth dam at the time of its construction in 1931. There is a hiking trail beside the dam.

12.3 mi. On the right behind a fence is what remains of one of the many cart roads which crossed the land Springfield bought for its reservoir and watershed. Foundations of the farm buildings which were bought and then burned to the ground in the 1930s are scattered along the old roads which are still lined with stone walls and century old maple trees. This is closed to the public.

13.2 mi. On the left is a swamp which earlier in the century was a pond from which ice was harvested in the winters.

13.9 mi. Cobble Mountain Road intersects with Birch Hill Road. **Bear left on Birch Hill.**

14.1 mi. Birch Hill Road intersects with Route 23. **Turn left on 23 and follow the uphill return to town center**. Route 23 was a stage coach road and several of the houses along the way served as taverns after the town center grew up in the 1740s. One is on the left at the south west corner of Sunset Street.

15.5 mi. Back at the Post Office. Blandford has a general store, and in walking distance from it is the town park which offers grassy picnic spots and a pretty gazebo. Go back to the yellow blinking light and turn right on North Street. At the top of the hill is Blandford's White Church which was built in 1822 by Isaac Damon and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The town park is on the right before the church and down a small slope.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Blandford.** A small hilltown which has retained much of its 18th & 19th c. rural appearance.
- **White Church.** A National Register church designed by Isaac Damon, one of the most important builders in the Connecticut River Valley.
- **Cobble Mountain Reservoir**. The largest of three reservoirs built 1910-30 to keep Springfield in drinking water.
- **Cobble Mountain Dam**. A monumental dam across the well-named Little River.

TOUR SIX

History In The Hilltowns

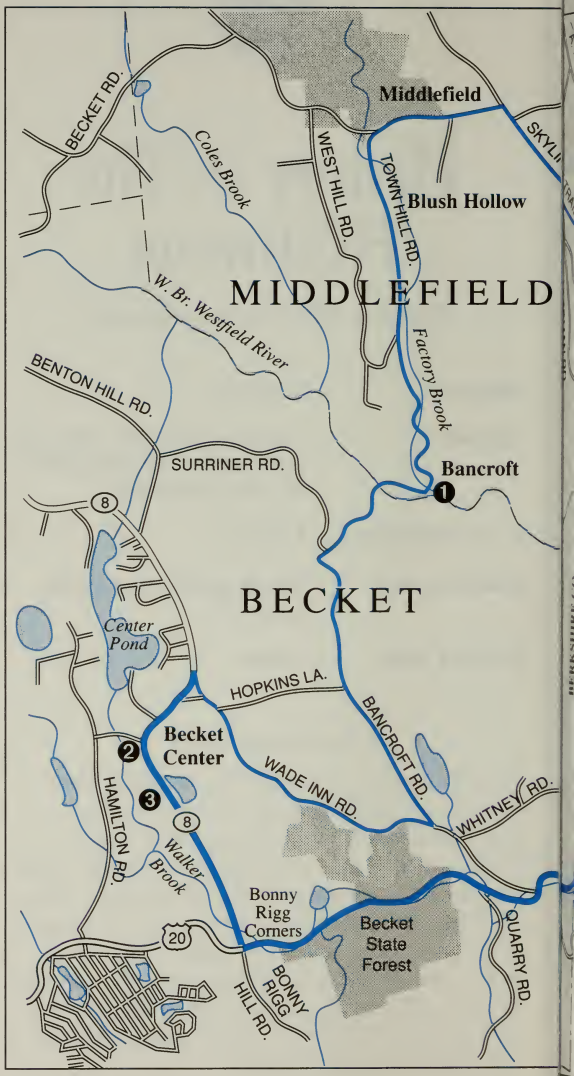
Chester-Middlefield-Becket

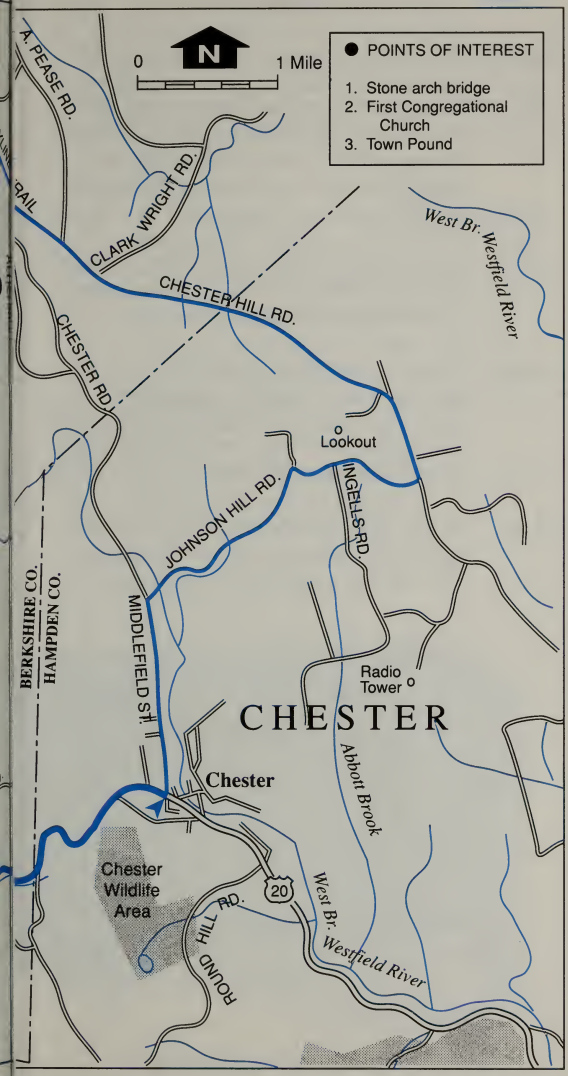
Distance:	**24.6 miles**
Terrain:	**Upland hills at their rigorous best; most challenging hills in first half of the tour**
Level of Difficulty:	**Difficult**
Road Surface:	**Mostly paved; only 2 miles graveled**
Pedaling Time:	**3 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

This ride starts in the valley of the Westfield River and rises up to the highlands of the Skyline Trail where distant views in several directions reward cyclists. Next, it goes to Middlefield's historic center, a textbook of 19th century architectural styles. Then the village of Bancroft gives riders their only glimpse of the monumental stone arch bridges which were built by the railroad in the 1840s to cross the Westfield River. Finally, it passes Becket Center whose history begins with its 1760 parade ground and 1768 pound and includes a Paul Revere bell.

Tour Map Six – History In The Hilltowns




N
0
1 Mile
POINTS OF INTEREST
1. Stone arch bridge
2. First Congregational Church
3. Town Pound
A. PEASE RD.
CLARK WRIGHT RD.
CHESTER HILL RD.
CHESTER RD.
West Br. Westfield River
Lookout
INGELLS RD.
JOHNSON HILL RD.
MIDDLEFIELD ST.
BERKSHIRE CO.
HAMPDEN CO.
Radio Tower
CHESTER
Chester
Abbott Brook
Chester Wildlife Area
HILL RD.
ROUND
20
West Br. Westfield River

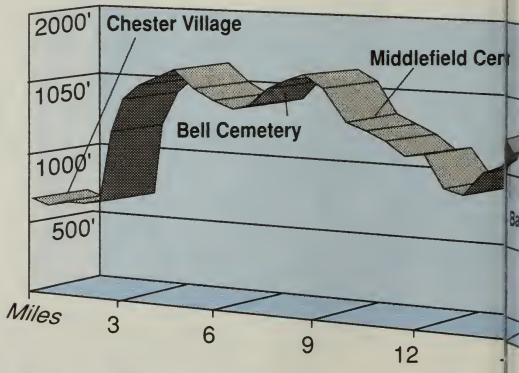
TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. Start in Chester at the corner of Route 20 and Middlefield Street. You can park on Middlefield Street; **then head north**. The road is a mile of flat land which follows the railroad line now owned by Conrail but originally built by the Western Railroad in the 1840s.

0.3 mi. On the left is a stone house which was built at the turn of the century as a mineralogical museum and now is a private home.

0.5 mi. On the right look across the stream through the trees to see the railroad roundhouse which was built in 1853 to house the engines which pushed railroad cars up Washington Mountain northeast of town.

0.6 mi. On the right is an abrasives factory which has been in operation since its founding in 1901 when it used locally mined emery.



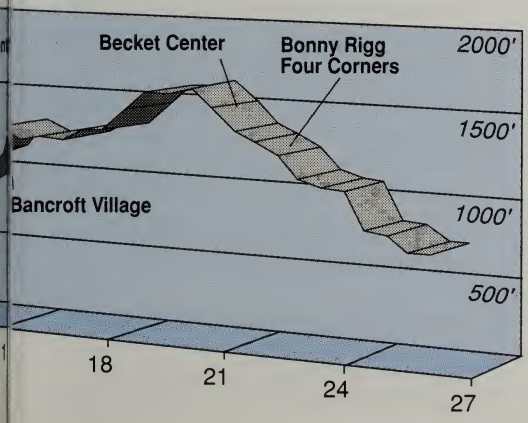
Tour Profile

Tour Six – History In The Hilltowns

1.6 mi. **Take a right on to Johnson Hill Road just after the bridge.** This is a paved road for about a half mile and then turns into a graveled dirt road at the 2.0 mi. point. The road climbs steeply for 1.8 miles up Quigley Hill and follows the Otis Wait Brook.

3.4 mi. **At the summit you will cross over Ingells Road.** In the distance you will be looking across the Middle Branch of the Westfield River towards Goss Hill, and Little Canada Hill in Hampshire County and Hickory Mountain in Hampden County. Turn and look in the opposite direction and you will see from the south: Cobble Mountain, West Hill to Bear Mountain on the north.

4.1 mi. **Take a left on Skyline Trail** which is also known as Chester Hill Road.



4.3 mi. Oppenheimer's Bicentennial Farm is on the right. It has virtually the same boundaries as it did when land was granted to its settler in 1762 and has been farmed since that date.

4.7 mi. Chester Hill Farm on the left raises Polled Herefords. Just beyond the farm, Holcomb Road joins Skyline Trail on the right. Frog Hollow Bed and Breakfast is located down this road.

6.4 mi. From Bell Cemetery the road descends rather steeply.

6.7 mi. Skyline Blues farm raises blueberries which are an important crop in the uplands of many of the hilltowns.

7.9 mi. At the fork in the road Chester/Middlefield Road joins Skyline Trail. **Continue straight.**

8.6 mi. This is Middlefield Center which has a Greek Revival General Store, a 1901 Queen Anne town hall, and a truly ecumenical Congregational church which was made in 1902 by joining a Baptist meetinghouse to a Methodist chapel on the site of an earlier Congregational church, the two being held together by a new tower and belfry. Next to the church on the corner of Town Hill Road is an excellent example of an Italianate style house. It was built by a local wool manufacturer in 1868. **Turn left on Town Hill Road.** The route now descends fairly swiftly to Bancroft village.

10.6 mi. Bush Hollow Farm and its neighbor across the road are typical hilltown farms where stony soil has dictated raising sheep and cattle for two hundred years. Blush Hollow

once had a dam which was used by several woolen mills. It burst in 1874, again in 1901 and was never rebuilt.

12.4 mi. After a long downhill stretch, the road passes under one of the five stone arch bridges built in the 1840s by the Western Railroad. Stucco was added in the 1930s, but the north face of the bridge shows the original keystone work. These bridges are on the National Register of Historic Places.

12.7 mi. Around the corner **the road becomes Bancroft Road**. This cluster of buildings is a small village that grew up when the railroad came. Note the small house on the left which was a depot building and the caboose on the hill at the right. The caboose was stranded when the railroad removed the siding it was on. **After crossing the Westfield River,** on the right you will see a vacant textile mill. The road now makes a gradual uphill all the way to Becket.

15.6 mi. **Take a right at Wade Inn Road** which continues the gradual uphill. Several stone foundations of old houses can be seen on the right, as this is an old road. You will pass Hopkins Lane on the right.

18.1 mi. **Turn left at the intersection with Bonny Rigg Hill Road, Route 8.**

18.8 mi. On the right is Becket Center which began with a sawmill in 1740. The First Congregational Church set back on the right is an 1850 Greek Revival

building with a bell cast by Paul Revere which still is rung. In front of the church is "The Parade" where Becket Minutemen drilled before marching to Boston in 1775.

18.9 mi The Town Pound built in 1768 stands on the right looking like a three sided foundation. Here animals, which were allowed to graze along the road but had strayed too far, were held for their owners to collect them.

20.4 mi. Intersection with Route 20 at Bonny Rigg Four Corners. **Take a left.**

23.2 mi. A natural spring is found on the left side of the road. Many people come here to fill up their containers for drinking water..

24.6 mi. Back in Chester, at the intersection with Middlefield Street turn left. **End of ride.**

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Middlefield Center**. A picturesque village at the top of Skyline Trail.
- **Stone Arch Bridge.** One of five National Register railroad bridges in keystone construction.
- **Becket Center.** First village in Becket with a Paul Revere bell in its church and a carefully preserved town pound.

TOUR SEVEN

Summer Camps & Cabins

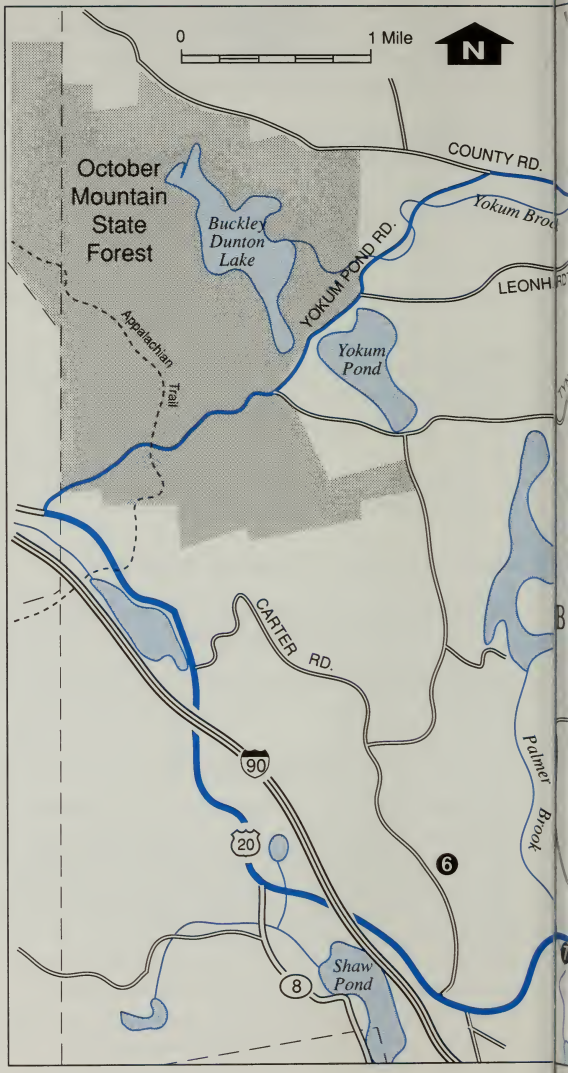
Becket-Lee

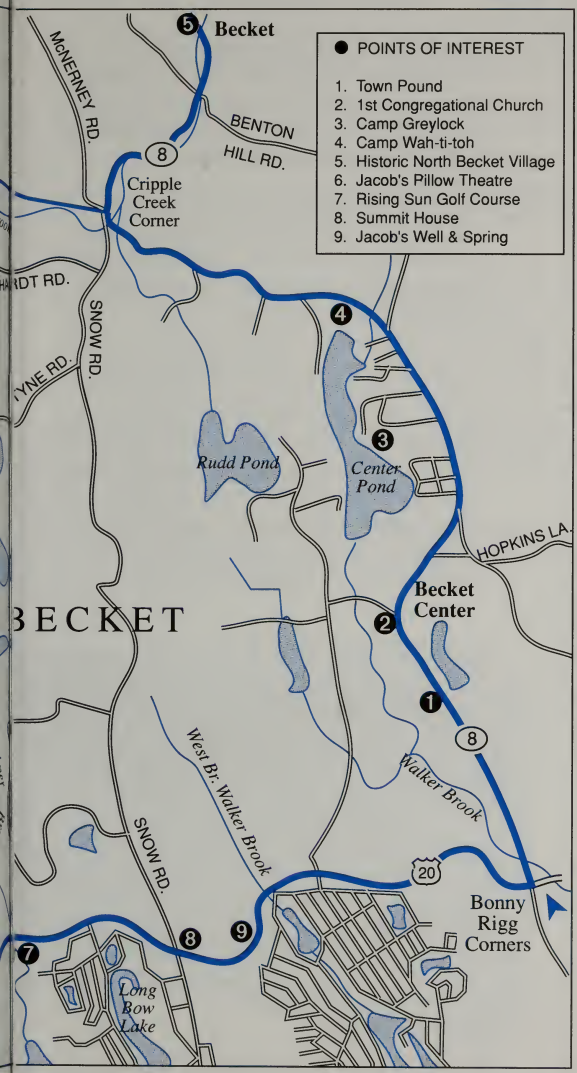
Distance	**21.2 miles**
Terrain:	**Persistent uphill thru first third of ride, followed by precipitous downhill of 1-1/2 miles. Last 3 miles flat to gently rolling.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Moderate to Difficult**
Road Surface:	**All paved, but at times somewhat rough**
Pedaling Time:	**2 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

This route takes riders through Becket's two historic districts and passes several of the lakeside children's camps where generations of city children have spent their summers. It takes riders into Becket's rural country and into Massachusetts' largest state forest where it dips down into Lee and skirts Greenwater Pond. Returning to Becket, riders climb the modified Jacob's Ladder and pass several remnants of early roadside tourist stops. There are plenty of opportunities to stop and picnic or make a hiking detour along the way.

Tour Map Seven – Summer Camps & Cabins



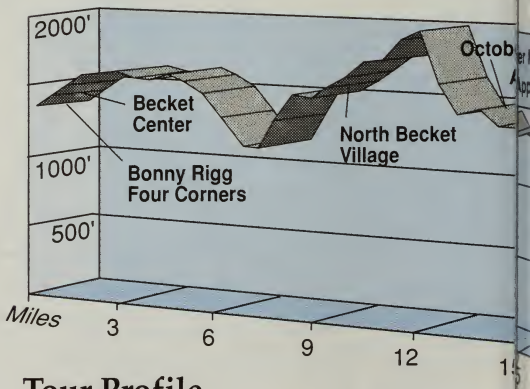

POINTS OF INTEREST
1. Town Pound
2. 1st Congregational Church
3. Camp Greylock
4. Camp Wah-ti-toh
5. Historic North Becket Village
6. Jacob's Pillow Theatre
7. Rising Sun Golf Course
8. Summit House
9. Jacob's Well & Spring
Becket
McNERNEY RD.
BENTON HILL RD.
Cripple Creek Corner
SNOW RD.
Rudd Pond
Center Pond
HOPKINS LA.
Becket Center
BECKET
West Br. Walker Brook
Walker Brook
SNOW RD.
Bonny Rigg Corners
Long Bow Lake

TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. This route begins at the intersection of Bonny Rigg Hill Road (Route 8) and Route 20. There is parking on the south side of the intersection in several pull-overs. **Begin the route going north on Route 8.**

1.4 mi. The first indication of the original Becket Center is the town pound on the left. Built in 1768 the structure held animals which had strayed too far in their grazing along the roadside.

1.7 mi. On the left, set back from the road is the First Congregational Church of Becket which was built in 1850 in the Greek Revival style. The open space before the church was the town's parade grounds where Becket's Minutemen drilled during the Revolutionary War and from which they marched to Boston in 1775. Paul Revere made the bell which still is rung in the



Tour Profile

Tour Seven – Summer Camps & Cabins

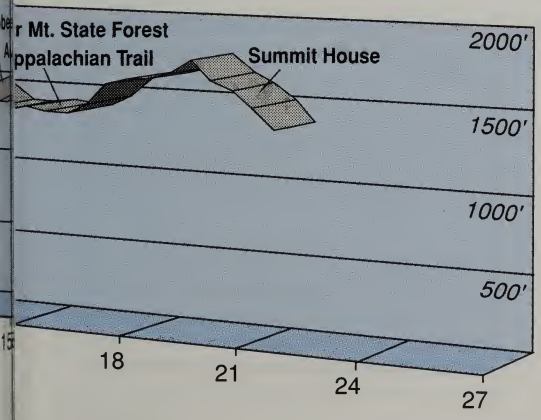
church. This is the first rural historic district designated to the National Register in the United States

2.9 mi. On the left is Camp Greylock, a boys' camp founded in 1916 to give city children healthy summers in New England. Becket became an important center for these summer camps which have continued to the present.

3.3 mi. On the right note the restored Georgian cape style house. Still a common house form, there are very few remaining from the 18th century.

3.6 mi. On both sides of the road, Camp Wah-ti-toh a camp for both boys and girls which began at the same time as Greylock.

5.1 mi. Cripple Creek Corner. **Keep following Route 8 north.** You will return to this corner, however.



6.4 mi. On the right, are fieldstone foundations of a former silk mill which was washed away in a 1927 flood which devastated much of Becket along the river.

6.6 mi. On the right is a series of monuments to Becket veterans of the two World Wars and an Indian grinding stone at the rear.

6.7 mi. This is the historic district of North Becket Village. There is a display map of the district next to the 1850 Athenaeum. Behind the Athenaeum is the 1855 Seminary Hall, now the Becket Arts Center. **Now turn back on Route 8 going south and return to Cripple Creek Corner.**

8.2 mi. **Take a right at the Corner and follow County Road up the incline bearing off left behind the Cripple Creek building.**

9.1 mi. **At the fork in the road bear left.** Although there is no sign at this intersection, the road on the left is Yokum Pond Road. Yokum Brook runs parallel to the road here.

10.2 mi. Leonhardt Road joins Yokum Pond Road. This is a rather new residential section of Becket.

10.9 mi. Yokum Pond Road goes between Buckley Dunton Lake and Yokum Pond. **Bear right at the junction with Tyne Road. You are now on Tyne.**

11.5 mi. Riders enter October Mountain State Forest and the road begins a steep downhill. There are a number of hiking trails which can be taken into the forest from this road. The Appalachian Trail crosses the road nearby.

12.8 mi. Tyne Road ends at Route 20 in Lee. Across the road is the Belden Tavern which has been in operation since the early 19th century. **Turn left on 20.**

13.3 mi. The Appalachian Trail crosses Route 20 again. It is about a 40 minute walk to Goose Pond where there is swimming and a small cabin where one can stay overnight.

13.6 mi. Greenwater Pond is on the right. The pond was extended early in the 20th century and remnants of a previous dam can be seen mid-way across it.

15.7 mi. Route 8 south intersects with Route 20. Just beyond the intersection on the right is a marker to the road's first traffic fatalities which took place during an ox-drawn wagon race in 1847.

17.0 mi. On the left up George Carter Road about a mile is Jacob's Pillow School and Theatre. One of the country's premier dance theaters, it is worth going to see.

17.9 mi. On the right is the Rising Sun Golf Course (former Sherwood Green) laid out around marshes and ponds formed by the Palmer Brook. From the low spot of the golf course, the road rises up Morey Hill which is the site of the original Jacob's Ladder Trail. When the leaves are down, one can see the trail which looks like a deep ravine. The road now skirts the climb somewhat, but it was infamous among early car owners until it was changed in 1910.

18.9 mi. At the intersection with Fred Snow Road is the Summit House which was an early 20th century roadside stop for

tourists along the Trail. The stone monument beside it was originally a cairn on which stones brought by visitors and automobile clubs from across the country were left.

19.4 mi. On the left side of the road is a pull-over in which one can still see what remains of Jacob's Well and Jacob's Spring. This is where cars stopped to fill their radiators with water for the climb up Jacob's Ladder Trail. There was a gift shop/restaurant on the site called Jacob's Log Cabin Inn.

21.2 mi. Back at the intersection with Route 8 north. **End of the ride.**

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Becket Center.** The first Rural Historic District in America.
- **North Becket Historic District.** A village with remarkable institutional buildings dating from the first half of the 19th century.
- **October Mountain State Forest.** Massachusett's largest state forest.
- **Jacob's Ladder.** The Trail's namesake section which can still be found together with some of the region's early roadside amenities.

TOUR EIGHT

Tyringham Valley

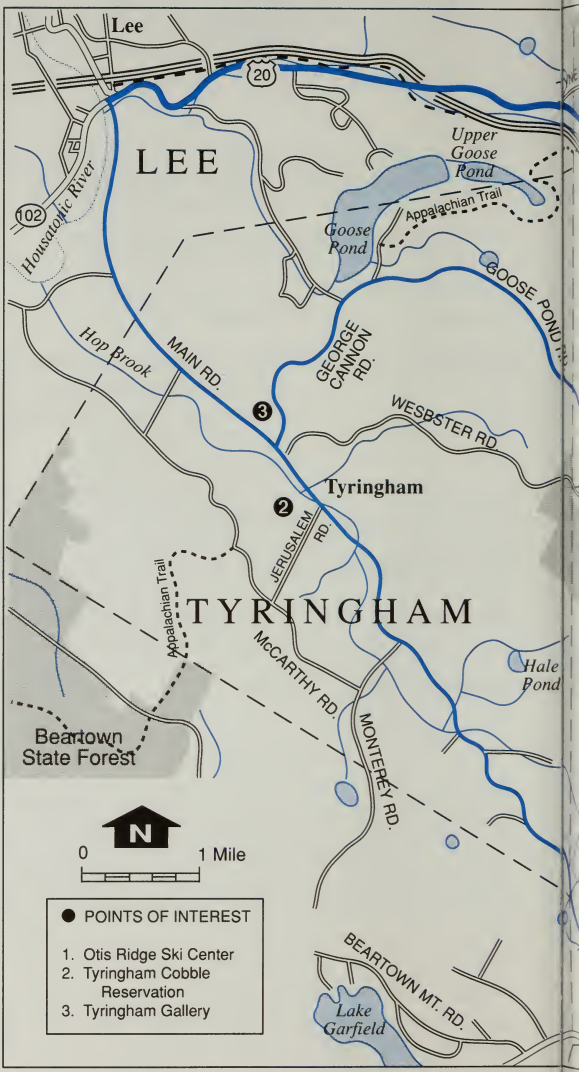
Otis-Tyringham-Lee-Becket

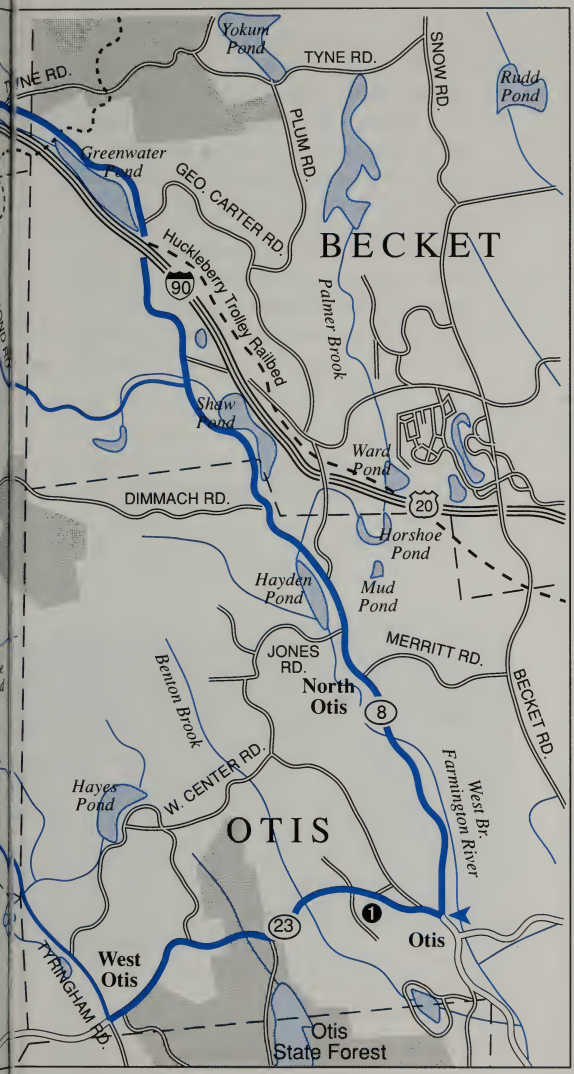
Distance:	**25.7 miles**
Terrain:	**The hill climbs are gradual on this route after a series of short hills at the beginning out of Otis. They are followed by several long, fairly steep, and enjoyable downhills.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Moderate**
Road Surface:	**All paved with an off-road alternative on dirt roads**
Pedaling Time:	**3 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

One of the most beautiful rides in Western Massachusetts, this route begins in Otis, passes a ski area and then makes its way along the Tyringham Valley through woodland, past marshes, maple shaded horse farms, and open fields bordered with meandering stone walls. In East Lee farms give way to town and Greenwater Brook empties into a pond lined with cottages. Down Route 8 back to Otis, riders follow an old road which in many places looks much as it did in the 19th century.

Tour Map Eight – Tyringham Valley

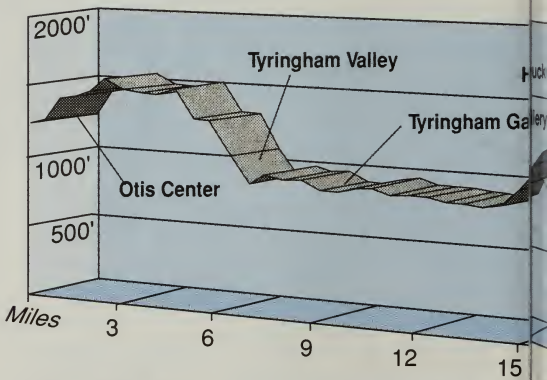



Yokum Pond
TYNE RD.
SNOW RD.
Rudd Pond
PLUM RD.
Greenwater Pond
GEO. CARTER RD.
BECKET
Huckleberry Trolley Railbed
90
Palmer Brook
Shaw Pond
Ward Pond
DIMMACH RD.
20
Horshoe Pond
Hayden Pond
Mud Pond
JONES RD.
MERRITT RD.
BECKET RD.
North Otis
8
Benton Brook
W. CENTER RD.
Hayes Pond
West Br. Farmington River
OTIS
1
Otis
23
West Otis
TYRINGHAM RD.
Otis State Forest

TOUR NARRATIVE

.0.0 mi. **Start this tour in Otis on Route 8.** There is parking available at the Town Hall and across the street at the Post Office. The Otis Congregational Church next to Town Hall was built in 1813 after a design by Charles Bulfinch. It is said to be the only church in Berkshire County that has retained its steeple as originally built. Start off by taking an immediate left on to Route 23 West. As you make the turn note the 1829 Gothic Revival Church on the left. Its ogival shaped windows are made of wood to look like leaded glass. Next to it is an early town burial ground.

0.3 mi. The Otis Ridge Ski Center is active year round with exhibitions and entertainment. In front of it begins one of several uphill climbs.



Tour Profile

Tour Eight – Tyringham Valley

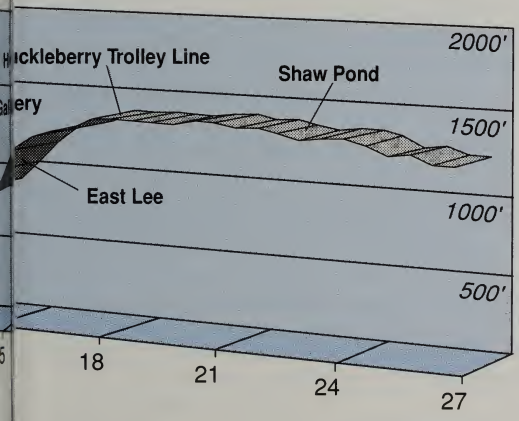
3.5 mi. **At the foot of a steep hill you will have to brake to take a right on to Tyringham Road.** This is one of the region's most scenic rural roads as it winds along the Tyringham Valley and the Hop Brook.

6.0 mi. Here begins a steep descent into the valley. Watch for the gravel patch at the bottom as you can get up quite a good speed on the hill. Along the Tyringham Road is an architectural historian's dream, a collection of well preserved and high style Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate style farmhouses.

7.7 mi. Note the brick 1799 Federal house on the left.

8.0 mi. The Appalachian Trail crosses the road here.

8.8 mi. On the left is an outstanding Greek Revival church and its parish house.



9.0 mi. An interesting side detour is to take a left hand turn up Jerusalem Road next to the Craftsman style fieldstone Post Office. Less than half a mile up the road is the Trustees of Reservation property, the Tyringham Cobble. The Cobble trail, about 1.5 mi. long, climbs to the top through cow pastures for a spectacular view of the valley and circles back down to the parking lot.

9.8 mi. Tyringham Gallery on the right is an architectural curiosity which pushes the English cottage style toward Walt Disney. Directly across the road is Sunset Farm Maple Products with their own cheddar cheese and maple syrup.

A challenging alternative route for off-road cyclists is to turn back 0.3 mi. from the Gallery and turn left on George Cannon Road. You will feel as if you are going through someone's yard at first, but it is a town road which climbs abruptly up the eastern side of the valley and then winds along Cooper Brook. There will be junctions with two other roads on this route. In each case, bear to your right.

12.1 mi. Turn right on the paved road which is Pond Road. It becomes a dirt road shortly and is called the Tyringham Road on maps.

16.4 mi. At junction with Route 8 turn right and continue south to Otis rejoining the main bike tour.

9.8 mi. At Tyringham Gallery, for the paved route continue north.

13.1 mi. **After crossing the single lane bridge, take a right on Route 102 and a right at the traffic light following Route 20 east.**

14.4 mi. This is East Lee where many of the town's paper manufacturers and their employees lived during the 19th century.

16.0 mi. On the left is Tivoli Tavern and running parallel to Route 20 behind the Tavern is the railroad bed of the Huckleberry Trolley Line which was built between 1910 and 1916 and ran for only two years before going out of business.

17.8 mi. The Appalachian Trail crosses Route 20 and from this point Upper Goose Pond is about a 2 mile walk along the trail. There is swimming on the pond and beds in an overnight cabin available for a small fee.

18.1 mi. Greenwater Pond is on the right. An old dam is visible part way across the pond.

18.3 mi. Arthur's Serious Steakhouse on the right is notable for the creme sodas Arthur brought up from New York for nostalgic summer visitors.

20.1 mi. Route 8 south forks off from Route 20. **Bear right on to Route 8,** but look just beyond the turn on the right hand side of Route 20 for a small obelisk shaped marker which was put up in 1847 to mark the Trail's first traffic fatality which came about from oxen team racing.

20.9 mi. Shaw Pond on the left. This part of the road was built about 1800 as the Farmington River Turnpike.

25.4 mi. The Other Brother Daryl's fish store is a well-known local stop.

25.7 mi. **End of the ride.**

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Otis.** Once a farming community; now an area of summer homes.
- **Tyringham Valley.** An unspoiled rural road with outstanding architecture and scenic landscapes.
- **Tyringham Gallery.** A one-of-a-kind building with an asphalt shingled version of a "thatched" roof.
- **Tyringham Cobble**. A hillside owned by the Trustees of Reservations with a trail to the top offering views up and down the valley.
- **East Lee.** A neighborhood of Lee which always had a separate identity for the many water powered mills it had.

TOUR NINE

Jacob's Way

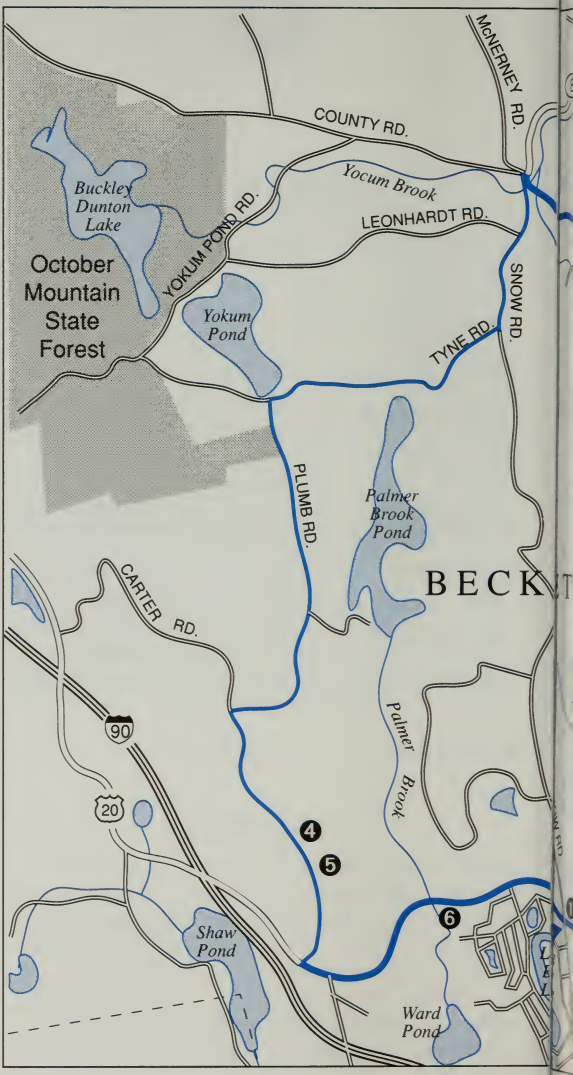
Becket

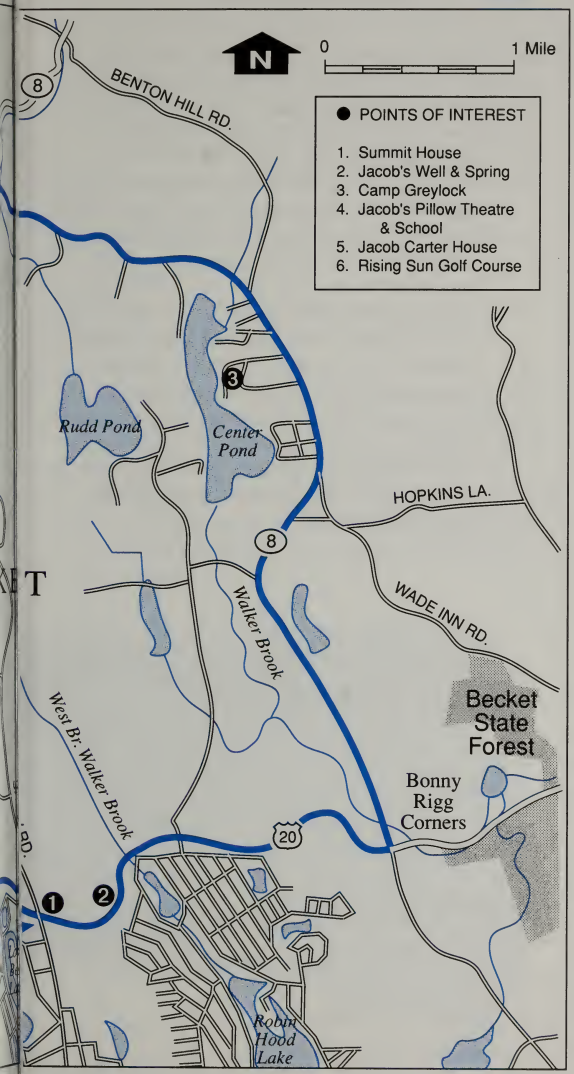
Distance:	**15.3 miles**
Terrain:	**A hilly climb with flatter sections along the way and one precipitous downhill close to the end. Uphill finish.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Moderate to Difficult**
Road Surface:	**Approximately 6 miles of this route are on dirt roads which are narrow, bumpy and often impassable during the spring. The rest of the tour is paved.**
Pedaling Time:	**2 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

Called Jacob's Way, this tour goes to all the sites associated with the legend of Jacob's Ladder from the original stretch of the road; to the Trail's first roadside tourist stops; Jacob's Pillow; and Jacob Carter's house. Along the trip riders will climb enough to appreciate "the Ladder" but not exhaustively so, and will get to enjoy some of the peaceful country roads of Becket which have brought people here for generations.

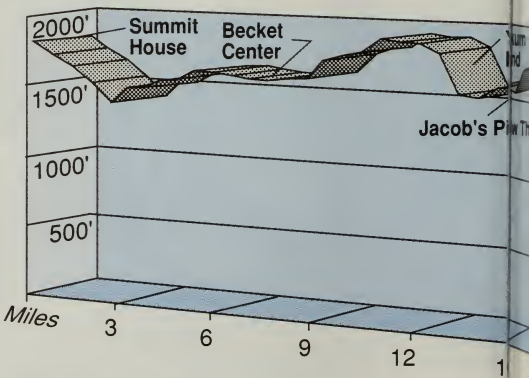
Tour Map Nine – Jacob's Way




N
0
1 Mile
POINTS OF INTEREST
1. Summit House
2. Jacob's Well & Spring
3. Camp Greylock
4. Jacob's Pillow Theatre & School
5. Jacob Carter House
6. Rising Sun Golf Course
BENTON HILL RD.
8
Rudd Pond
Center Pond
3
HOPKINS LA.
8
WADE INN RD.
Walker Brook
West Br. Walker Brook
Becket State Forest
Bonny Rigg Corners
20
1
2
Robin Hood Lake

TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. Start this tour at the Summit House at the corner of Route 20 and Fred Snow Road in Becket. There is a pull-over in which one can park directly across Route 20 from Summit House which was built in 1926 as a tourist stop. Gasoline, cabins, an observation tower and restaurant, now gone, made the place a well-remembered spot. Before starting out, take a look at the monument beside the Summit House. It was begun on September 10, 1910 when this section of Jacob's Ladder Trail was dedicated. Automobile clubs, towns and visitors brought stones, some of which are engraved with names and dates, to lay on the original cairn which was on the opposite side of the road. In the 1930s the cairn was moved and mortared together. **Begin the ride by going east on Route 20.**



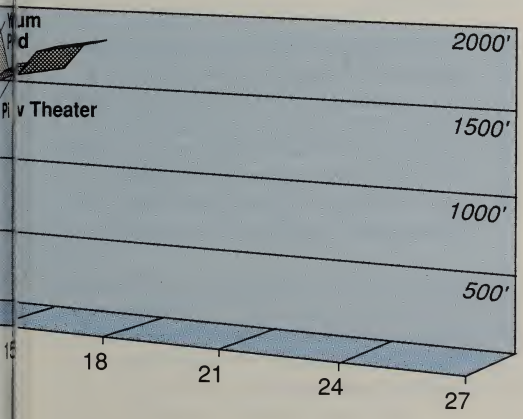
Tour Profile

Tour Nine – Jacob's Way

0.5 mi. On your left is a pull-over in which can be seen Jacob's Well and Spring about mid-way and at the edge of the woods. This was the stopping spot for water for automobiles which overheated in their ascent over Morey Hill and next to them was Jacob's Log Cabin Inn, a rustic gift shop and restaurant, which is now gone. The frequent pull-overs along the road are remnants of the original road's curves which were straightened out.

2.4 mi. After a long downhill ride **turn left on Route 8 north**.

3.8 mi. On the left is one of the few remaining town pounds in the region. Looking a lot like stone foundations, it was an enclosure built in 1768 and maintained by the town for holding stray animals which were allowed to pasture on the roadside, but were collected and returned to their owners from time to time.



4.0 mi. This is Becket Center the original town center from 1740. The First Congregational Church on the left dates from 1850 and is a good example of a Greek Revival meeting house. In it is one of only about thirty remaining bells cast by Paul Revere.

5.3 mi. Camp Greylock on the left is set on Center Pond and is one of New England's best known summer camps for boys. It has been in operation since 1916.

7.5 mi. **At the intersection of three roads with Route 8 at Cripple Creek Corner take a sharp left turn on to Fred Snow Road** which is paved for only 0.2 mi. and is a fairly steep climb. Pass Leonhardt Road on the right and then you will come to Canterbury Farm, a 1780 Federal farmhouse which is an inn and ski touring center.

8.4 mi. Turn right on Tyne Road.

9.0 mi. On the left is the Palmer Brook pond and marsh land.

9.7 mi. On the right is Yokum Pond. **Take the next left on to Plumb Road.** You will pass a pretty good cross section of summer houses, cottages and simple camps which give Becket much of its summer population and character, which ranges from elegant to funky. The next two and a half miles are quintessential Berkshire hills woodland.

11.9 mi. **At the end of Plumb Road turn left.** This is the unmarked George Carter Road and begins the route's descent which is rather dicey with rocks and ruts and is often impassable in the spring.

12.5 mi. Cleared fields of a hillside farm give the best distant view of this route towards Baldy Mountain in Tyringham.

12.7 mi. Jacob's Pillow School and Theatre buildings and outdoor stage are set on both sides of the road. During the summer weekdays, it is possible to watch a dance performance on the outdoor stage for free. It is worth walking through the Pillow's landscaped grounds. On performance days, there is a cafe open.

13.0 mi. On the left is the 18th century house of Jacob Carter who is thought by some local historians to be the source of the Jacob's Ladder Trail name, as he is said to have used his team of oxen to haul automobiles over "The Ladder" when they couldn't make the grade.

13.5 mi. **At the end of George Carter Road take a left on to Route 20** and follow it back to The Summit House. This section of Jacob's Ladder Trail is hilly and traffic can be busy, so be wary.

14.4 mi. On the right is the Rising Sun Golf Course which is laid out around Palmer's Brook, several marshes and ponds near it. The hill in front of you and to the left, is the location of the original road called Jacob's Ladder. A deep ravine not far from the edge of the road is the old road bed. It is easier to see when the leaves are down.

15.3 mi. The Summit House and end of the route. Don't miss the deer statue. It is the last evidence of the Summit's early highway entertainment: a live deer exhibit. During deer hunting season it has been seen dressed in a hunter's orange vest and hat.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Jacob's Pillow School and Theatre.** An internationally renowned summer dance center.
- **Jacob's Ladder.** A section of road which was the nemesis of early car owners who had to be hauled over the top by ox teams.
- **Jacob's Well and Spring.** A natural spring which was made a tourist stop in the 1920s when roadside attractions were developing.
- **Jacob Carter House.** A Georgian house altered during the Greek Revival period, the home of Jacob Carter who may have been the source of the Jacob's Ladder Trail legend.
- **The Summit House.** At the top of the Ladder, an early tourist stop which witnessed the growth of car tourism.

TOUR TEN

River Ride

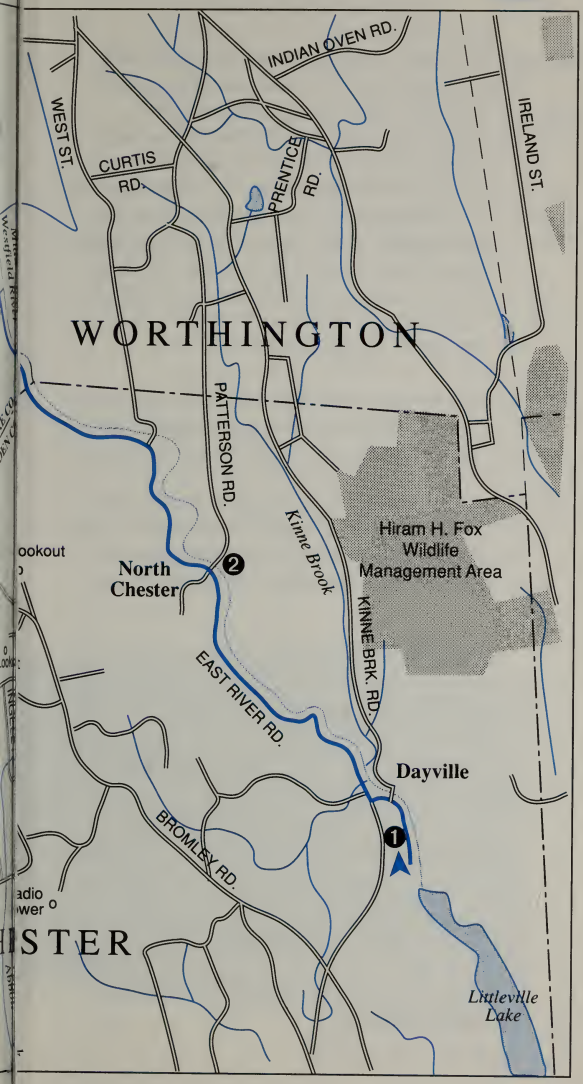
Chester-Middlefield

Distance:	**17 miles**
Terrain:	**Bordering the river, mostly flat, but with a few hills for variety**
Level of Difficulty:	**Easy**
Road Surface:	**All paved but not in top condition**
Pedaling Time:	**1 1/2 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

This is a leisurely tour which can be made with inexperienced cyclists and children; and, because it is a linear route, it can easily be shortened. The tour follows the Middle Branch of the Westfield River where there are opportunities for swimming and picnicking, and where the road on a hot summer day is degrees cooler from both the river and the trees which line it. It passes through North Chester, an unassuming village whose buildings tell an interesting story of a 19th c. industrial settlement. The ride could be coupled with fishing on Littleville Lake or a visit to the Littleville Fair at exhibition time.

Tour Map Ten – River Ride

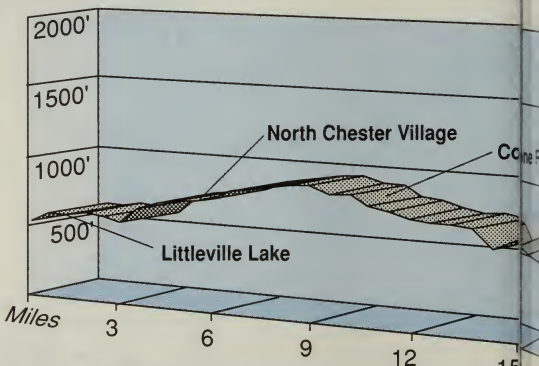

INDIAN OVEN RD.
WEST ST.
CURTIS RD.
PRENTICE RD.
IRELAND ST.
WORTHINGTON
PATTERSON RD.
Kinne Brook
Hiram H. Fox Wildlife Management Area
KINNE BRK. RD.
North Chester
EAST RIVER RD.
Dayville
BROMLEY RD.
Littleville Lake

TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. This route begins in Chester at Littleville Park in Dayville. There is a large public parking lot in the Park at the edge of Littleville Lake. The lake is stocked with trout and used by fishermen and boaters, but there is no swimming as it is a reservoir for Springfield's water supply. **From the parking lot take Kinne Brook Road back out to East River Road.** On the right, on the far side of a small bridge, you will see the Littleville Fairgrounds. Not far from the fair is a campground.

0.8 mi. **Turn right on East River Road**. This was an old stagecoach road and George Washington used it to go from Albany to Boston.

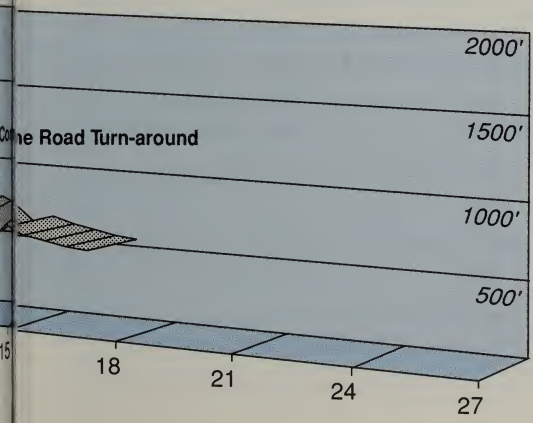
3.0 Smith Road is on the right and crosses the river on an 1887 bridge which is one of only 3 such truss bridges in western Massachusetts. This is the village of North Chester



Tour Profile

Tour Ten – River Ride

which was settled in the early 1800s and thrived through the Civil War with the industries powered by the river. On the right side of the river bank, look for the foundations of old mill and dam sites. At one time there were grist mills, saw mills, a bedstead factory, textile mills and companies making wooden bowls, slats and whip butts. From this spot most of the historic buildings of North Chester can be seen. On the far side of the river is the 1820 Stevens house. Stevens ran saw, grist, and linseed mills. On this side of the river, the most prominent building is the two story Cushman Tavern which was built in 1770, and George Washington is said to have stopped here. Up the hill from the tavern is the North Chester Chapel which was built in two days in 1909. On the other side of North Chester Road is a one story gabled building which was built c.1850 and used until 1920 as the North Chester Schoolhouse. One teacher with thirty pupils was



not unusual here. The farm house furthest up the hill is the Thomas Elder House which dates 1769. The Elders grew flax. Only two other families have ever owned it.

3.7 mi. On the right is one of the few good examples of a Gothic Revival cottage in Chester.

5.4 mi. On the right is a pull-over next to the river on the border with Middlefield.

7.9 mi. A wooden suspended footbridge crosses the river here.

8.5 mi. This is the intersection with Cone Road and makes a good **turn-around point.**

17.0 mi. Back at the parking lot and end of the ride.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Littleville Lake.** A reservoir of 275 acres popular for fishing, skating and boating.
- **Middle Branch of the Westfield River**. A nationally designated Wild and Scenic River.
- **North Chester.** A rural hamlet dating from the 1770s.
- **Smith Bridge.** An unusual truss bridge built in 1887.
- **East River Road.** An old stagecoach road which follows the Westfield River.

TOUR ELEVEN

The Huckleberry Line

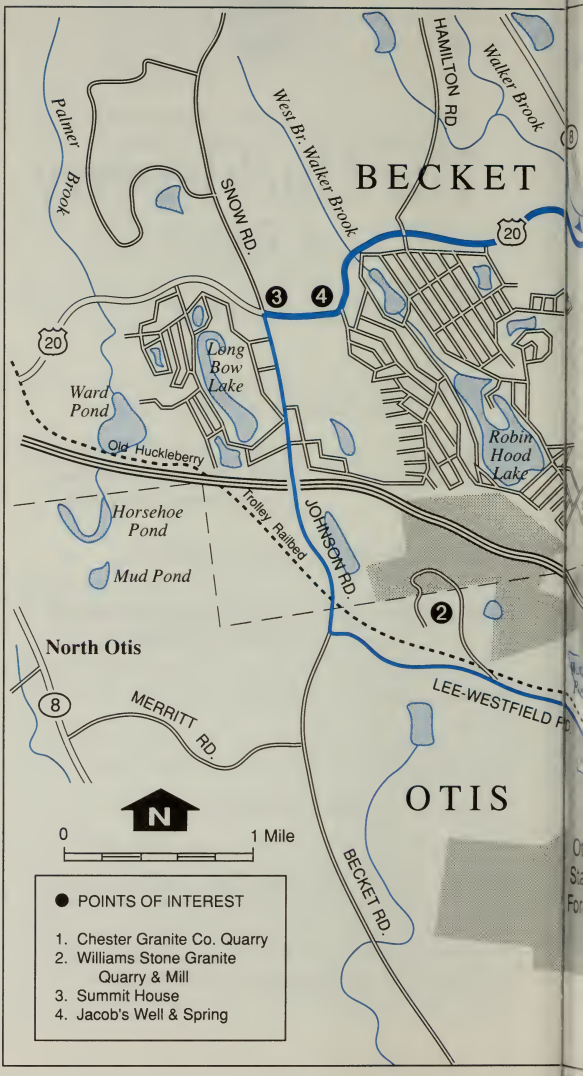
Becket-Otis

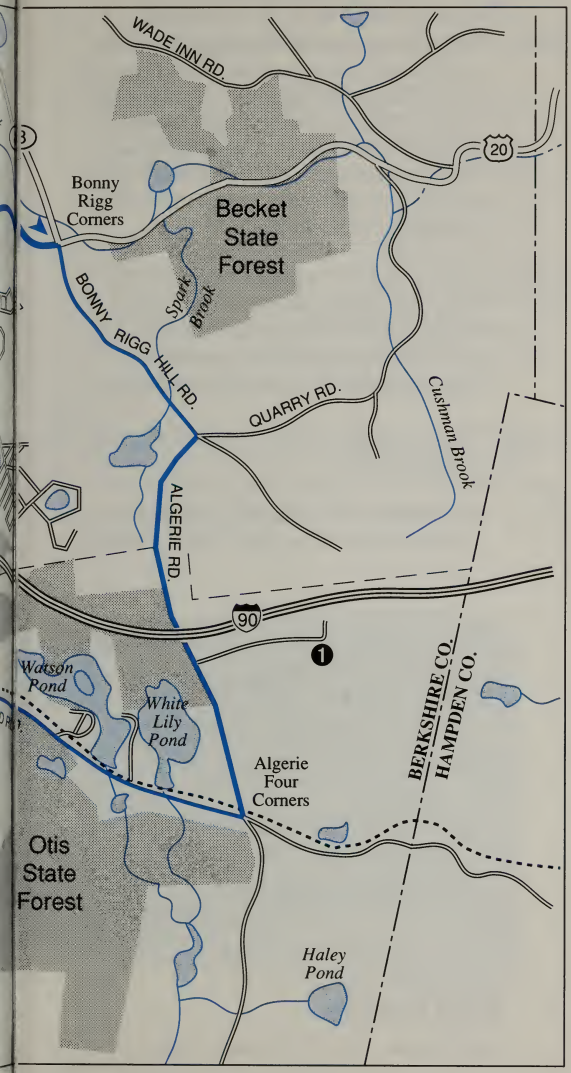
Distance:	**10.6 miles**
Terrain:	**Steep hill for challenging start; then rolling section over a gradual downhill**
Level of Difficulty:	**Easy to Moderate**
Road Surface:	**About 8 miles paved and 2 miles graveled**
Pedaling time:	**1 hour**

TOUR SUMMARY

Back roads criss-crossed by an old trolley line take riders in a woods loop past quarries and ponds. This relatively short route manages to give riders a full picture of the picturesque qualities of the area where logging sometimes goes on next to summer homes; where turkeys and deer are commonly seen.

Tour Map Eleven – The Huckleberry Line




WADE INN RD.
Bonny Rigg Corners
Becket State Forest
Spark Brook
BONNY RIGG HILL RD.
QUARRY RD.
Cushman Brook
ALGERIE RD.
20
90
1
Watson Pond
White Lily Pond
Algerie Four Corners
BERKSHIRE CO.
HAMPDEN CO.
Otis State Forest
Haley Pond

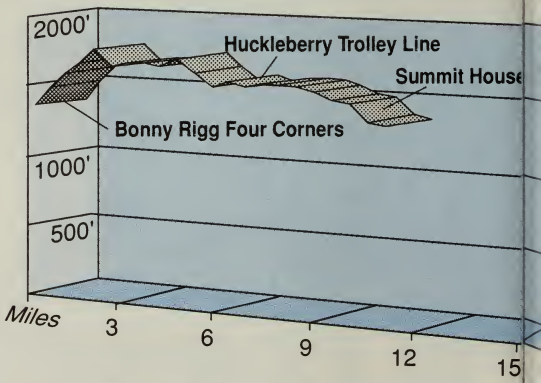
TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. This ride starts at Bonny Rigg Hill Road in Becket at the intersection with Route 20. There is a parking pull-over on the south side of the intersection. **Begin the ride going south on Bonny Rigg Hill Road.** The first part is a very steep climb for 0.4 mi. through an *allee* of maple trees which are about 150 years old.

1.3 mi. **Take a right on Algerie Road**. On the right you will be passing several ponds where summer cottages are set at the end of a series of long drives. Becket's population nearly doubles in the summer.

2.5 mi. The road passes under the Massachusetts Turnpike here.

2.7 mi. On the left is an operating granite quarry, the Chester Granite Company which produces



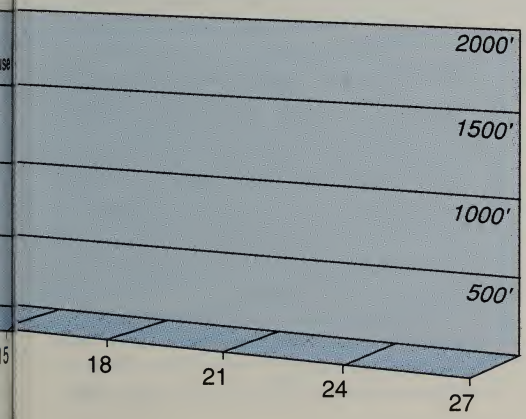
Tour Profile

Tour Eleven – The Huckleberry Line

fine pieces for furniture and buildings. This area of Becket has been producing granite for over a hundred years.

3.6 mi. **At the Lee-Westfield Road intersection turn right.** Just before the intersection one can see the railbed of the former Huckleberry Trolley Line which now is a power line right of way. This trolley line was built between 1911 and 1916 between Lee and Huntington and cost $3,000,000 but ran for only two seasons as it lost out in competition with the automobile on Jacob's Ladder Trail. Except where it is marked private property, much of the land on both sides of the road makes up part of the Otis State Forest.

4.1 mi. On the right is a dam at the end of White Lily Pond which is a favorite fishing spot for the neighborhood. The trolley line runs parallel to the road here on the right.



4.4 mi. The pavement turns to graveled road for 2.1 miles through woodland at this point. On the right is a dam and spillway for Watson Pond.

4.6 mi. On the left is the south end of an unnamed pond in Otis State Forest. If you make your way to the edge of the pond through the woods, you can see nests of Great Blue Herons perched on the tops of dead trees. Formerly a major nesting site, the pond still gets a few herons each summer. Wild high-bush blueberries thrive here.

5.9 mi. The Williams Stone Granite Quarry and Mill is on the right. Stay straight on the Lee-Westfield Road. The road goes down hill.

6.5 mi. The Lee-Westfield Road ends at unmarked Johnson Road at this intersection. Take a right turn. The road is now paved for the rest of the ride. This road dates from the 1790s.

7.3 mi. The road crosses over the Massachusetts Turnpike.

8.3 mi. **Turn right at the junction with Route 20.** Across the road is the Summit House which in its heyday in the 1920s and 30s was a well known tourist stop where you could buy souvenirs of Jacob's Ladder Trail, stay overnight in a cabin or just have a picnic beside the road. The monument beside the building was begun in 1910 as a stone cairn where travelers and automobile clubs left stones from across the country. It was moved from its original site across the road and mortared together in the 1930s. This is the top of Morey Hill and as you **turn right**

and follow Route 20 downhill you will be going down a more gradual version of the original Jacob's Ladder Trail which was so steep that early cars had to be hauled across the top of it.

8.8 mi. On the left in the pull-over beside the road just at the edge of the woods, you can still find the original Jacob's Well and Spring where motorists stopped to fill their radiators. This was also the site of another resort stop, Jacob's Log Cabin Inn. These were among the country's first roadside attractions which combined shops, a restaurant, gas station and often cabins for the new car tourists.

10.6 mi. After a good downhill, you are back at Bonny Rigg Hill Road. End of the route.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Huckleberry Trolley Line.** The rail bed of a trolley line extravaganza which ran between Lee and Huntington via Blandford.
- **The Summit House and Stone Cairn**. Early roadside tourist stop, and monument to the enthusiasm generated by car travel.
- **Granite Quarries.** Two active quarries for specialized granite work.
- **Westfield-Lee Road**. Ponds on both sides of this road for fishing and bird watching.

TOUR TWELVE

Otis State Forest Loop

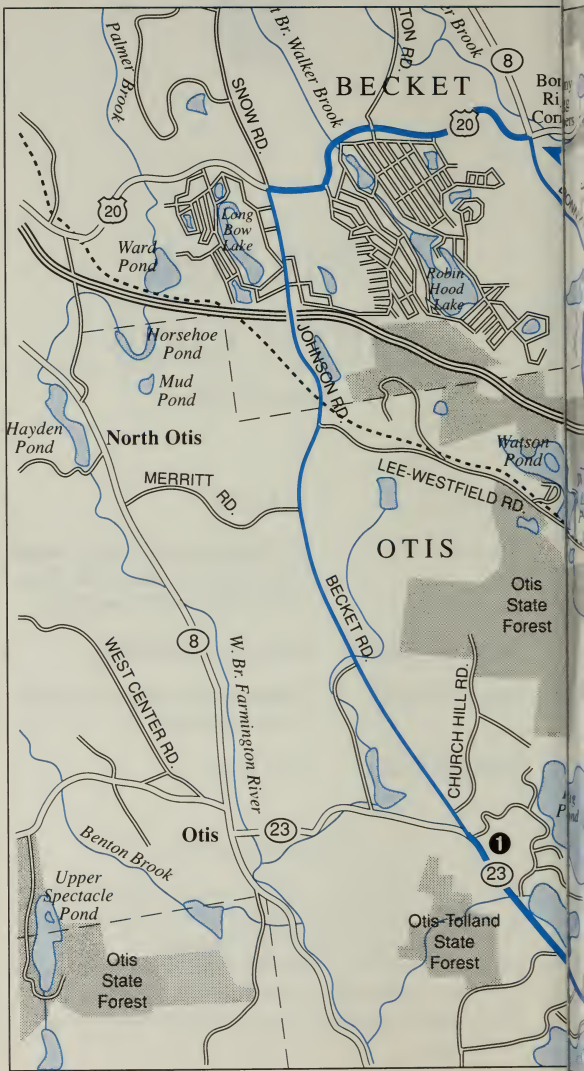
Becket-Otis

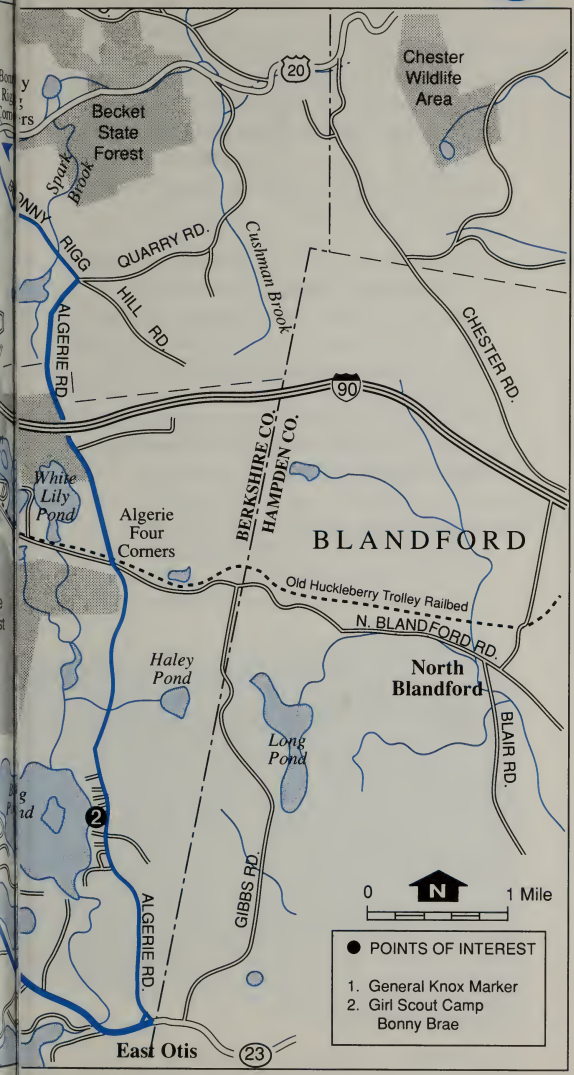
Distance:	**16.9 miles**
Terrain:	**Challenging uphill start which levels out to rolling hills then ends with a swift downhill.**
Level of Difficulty:	**Moderate to Difficult**
Road Surface:	**Mostly paved; approximately 3 miles graveled**
Pedaling Time:	**2 1/2 hours**

TOUR SUMMARY

Part of this route was used by General Knox when he and his troops moved cannons from Ft. Ticonderoga to Framingham during the Revolutionary War. It passes an entrance to the Otis State Forest where there is fishing, swimming, picnicking and camping; and then makes a return along forest-lined country roads to the start.

Tour Map Twelve – Otis State Forest Loop



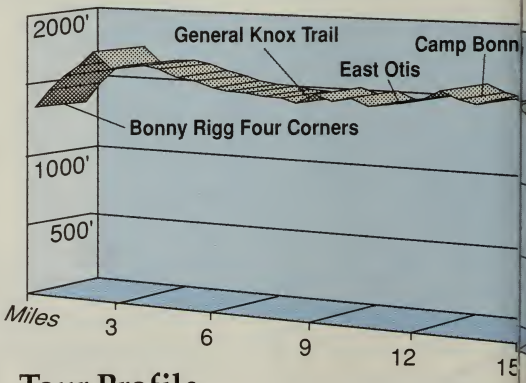

Chester Wildlife Area
Becket State Forest
Spurk Brook
20
QUARRY RD.
HILL RD.
Cushman Brook
CHESTER RD.
RIGG
ALGERIE RD.
90
BERKSHIRE CO.
HAMPDEN CO.
White Lily Pond
Algerie Four Corners
BLANDFORD
Old Huckleberry Trolley Railbed
N. BLANDFORD RD.
Haley Pond
North Blandford
BLAIR RD.
Long Pond
2
GIBBS RD.
ALGERIE RD.
East Otis
23
0
N
1 Mile
POINTS OF INTEREST
1. General Knox Marker
2. Girl Scout Camp Bonny Brae

TOUR NARRATIVE

0.0 mi. Start this ride at the corner of Bonny Rigg Hill Road and Route 20 in Becket. There is parking on two pull-overs on the south side of the intersection. **Begin by going west on Route 20**. This is a long uphill ride and is the section of the road which gave Jacob's Ladder Trail its name.

2.3 mi. This is the top of "The Ladder" and although it has been redirected to become more gradual over the years, one can understand the difficulty early cars had getting up when it was a rutted, steep uphill. The original roadway had a series of plateaus on it called "thank you ma'ams" where wagons and cars could rest. **Take a left turn on Johnson Road at the summit.**

3.9 mi. Johnson Road was built in 1790 and although it is now paved, the terrain has probably not changed a great deal since then. On the right where the power lines



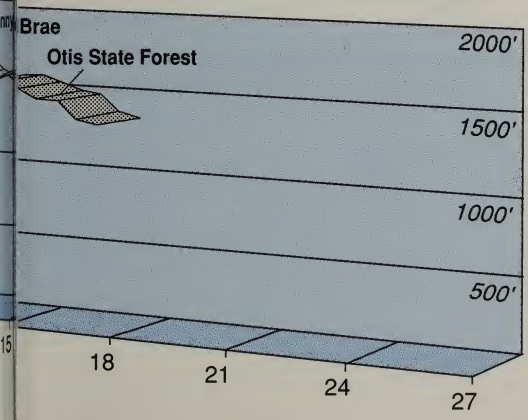
Tour Profile

Tour Twelve – Otis State Forest Loop

run, is a berm that was the track bed for the early Huckleberry Trolley Line built between 1910 and 1916. It couldn't compete with cars and folded after two years of not transporting much more than children going huckleberry picking.

4.1 mi. **Cross over the Westfield-Lee Road intersection**. The road turns into Becket Road, a graveled surface, as it enters a sparsely built woodland. Church Hill road on the left leads into a portion of the Otis State Forest.

7.4 mi. **Take a left hand turn on Route 23.** The road is paved and known as the General Knox Trail. It was a 165 mile toll road between 1757 and 1765 and was a military road during the Revolution. There is a marker on the left hand side of the road commemorating General Knox's trip of 1776.



8.8 mi. Tolland State Forest can be entered on the right. Its center is a 1,000 acre reservoir which powered a tool company on the Farmington River from 1865 until the state bought it in 1966. Around the reservoir one can see old foundations from farms pre-dating the reservoir, an old burial ground, and many cottages built from the 1930s on.

9.4 mi. This cluster of buildings is East Otis. Two general stores make it a good stop.

9.9 mi. **Turn left on Algerie Road.**

11.9mi. On the left is the Girl Scout camp Bonny Brae.

13.3 mi. **Cross over the intersection with North Blandford and Westfield-Lee Roads.** On the left much of the land is part of the Otis State Forest. It can be entered from the Westfield-Lee Road in the area of White Lily and Watson Ponds.

13.6 mi. **Take a left hand turn on Bonny Rigg Hill Road.**

16.5 mi. Here begins the descent to Route 20. This road can be patchy so be careful when you get up speed.

16.9 mi. End of route.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Otis State Forest.** A 3,155 acre state forest with hunting, fishing and canoeing.
- **Tolland State Forest.** A 4,893 acre state forest with swimming, boating, camping, hiking, and picnicking.
- **Jacob's Ladder Trail.** The original section of Route 20 called "The Ladder" which was so steep that cars had to be hauled over the top by oxen.
- **General Knox Marker.** A 1927 marker set up to memorialize the use of Route 23 by General Knox during the Revolutionary War.

	TOUR NAME	MILES
1	Skyline Trail	18.6
2	Dams Along the Westfield	20.7
3	Knightville Basin Off-Road Circuit	20 +/-
4	Back Roads and Quarries	20.2
5	Cobble Mountain Reservoir	15.5
6	History in the Hilltowns	24.6
7	Summer Camps and Cabins	21.2
8	Tyringham Valley	25.7
9	Jacob's Way	15.3
10	River Ride	17.0
11	The Huckleberry Line	10.6
12	Otis State Forest Loop	16.9

Appendix A

Tour Summary

TIME	LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	PAGE
2 1/2 hrs	Moderate	11
3 hrs	Moderate	21
4 hrs	Easy to Moderate	29
3 hrs	Moderate to Difficult	35
2 hrs	Easy to Moderate	43
3 hrs	Difficult	51
2 hrs	Moderate to Difficult	59
3 hrs	Moderate	67
2 hrs	Moderate to Difficult	75
1 1/2 hrs	Easy	83
1 hr	Easy to Moderate	89
2 1/2 hrs	Moderate to Difficult	97

Appendix B

Lodging and Accommodations

Restaurants

Becket

- **Berkshire Berries**
  Route 20, (413) 623-5779
  A family owned country restaurant. Jams, jellies and maple syrup all made on the premises. Home style cooking, open year round.

- **Lynne's**
  Route 8, (413) 623-2290
  A family restaurant serving pizza, grinders and homestyle cooking. Visit our game room.

Chester

- **Carms Restaurant**
  Route 20, (413) 354-7740
  We bake our own muffins & pies. Terrific baked hams and homemade jams. Listed for two years in Yankee Magazine as one of the 13 best breakfast, lunch and light dinner restaurants in New England.

- **Classic Pizza-Bluenote Cafe**
  Main Street, (413) 354-6554
  Serving our famous pizza, also serving ribs & chicken-teriyaki or BBQ, grinders, homemade soups, our own lasagna, pasta dishes, salads, buffalo wings, and daily specials available. Also featuring a lounge. Come eat at the bar and enjoy house music—Jazz and Blues.

- **Wildcat Springs Restaurant**
  Route 20, (413) 354-7868
  Casual country dining with a complete dinner menu including steaks, chops, seafood, chicken, Italian dishes, children's menu, and homemade desserts. Meals starting at $6.95, full bar, call ahead for reservations for groups of 6 or more.

Huntington

- **The Bantam Rooster**
  Route 20, (413) 667-8806
  Homemade meals, fresh baked goods, and centrally located in downtown Huntington. Cozy and down right country atmosphere & prices. Breakfast served all day. Come one, come all for home-style cooking.

- **Country Boy Restaurant**
  Route 112, (413) 667-5572
  A family restaurant serving breakfast, lunch & dinner. Daily specials, eat in or take-out available.

Lee

- **Cork 'n Hearth Restaurant**
  Route 20, (413) 243-0535
  Charming rustic atmosphere, panoramic lake views. Wide selection of seafood, veal, fowl, & beef. Call for seasonal hours. Major credit cards.

- **Cygnet's Lakeside Restaurant**
  at the Black Swan Inn on Laurel Lake
  Route 20, (413) 243-2700
  Savor exceptional cuisine & enjoy spectacular mountain & lakes views in our Atrium dining room. Early bird & daily specials.

- **Morgan House**
  Main Street, (413) 243-0181
  Superb New England dining in charming, authentic stagecoach inn. Lunch/dinner menus moderately priced Sunday Buffet Brunch.

- **Sullivan Station**
  Railroad Street (1 mi. off Exit 2, Mass Pike), (413) 243-2082
  Unique restaurant in the heart of the Berkshires, restored Railroad Station, 1890s atmosphere. Lunch, dinner & Sunday brunch, blackboard specials, wonderful homemade desserts, casual dining. Restored Caboose shop.

Russell

- **Ciro's**
  Route 20, (413) 862-3678
  Specializing in Italian fare. Grinders, sandwiches, pizza, spaghetti and more.

- **Russell Inn**
  Route 20, (413) 862-3608
  An Italian and American restaurant & sports bar. Sandwiches, grinders, pizza and dinner to eat in or take out.

- **Whippernon Country Club**
  Route 20, (413) 862-3606
  Restaurant and lounge serving daily lunch and weekend breakfasts.

Worthington

- **Bradford's Restaurant**
  Old Main Road (off Rte. 112), (413) 238-5837
  Complete dinner menu including seafoods and steaks. Superb dining in a New England setting.

- **Country Cricket Village Inn**
  Route 112, (413) 238-5366
  Dining room serving American continental cuisine with candlelight dinner specials on Friday and Saturday evening. Weekly Sunday morning brunch.

- **High Hopes Farms**
  Route 112, (413) 238-5919
  Join us for our exclusive "All-You-Can-Eat" pancake buffets. While browsing you will find pure maple products, jams, pies, apples, pumpkins & crafts. Petting zoo.

General Stores and Snack Shops

Becket

- **Becket General Store**
  Route 8, (413) 623-8712

- **Scarafoni's Convenience Store**
  Route 8, (413) 623-6689

Chester

- **A & L Market**
  Main Street, (413) 354-6593
  Grocery store with fresh vegetables, fresh meats dairy products and bakery.

- **Mary's Variety**
  Route 20, (413) 354-7894
  Variety store, deli lunch counter, beer, wine, groceries and more.

Huntington

- **B & D Variety**
  Route 112, (413) 667-8831
  Groceries, snacks, soda, newspapers, over-the-counter medicines, propane tanks for campers.

- **Bridge Store**
  East Main Street, (413) 667-3335
  General store featuring snacks, coffee, homemade doughnuts, sandwich shop with grinders and soup, groceries and supplies.

- **Huckleberry Trolley Bakery and Gift Shop**
  Route 112, (413) 667-5154
  Breads, pastries, fresh doughnuts, French meat pies, home baked beans, and deli items to go.

- **Huntington Country Store**
  Route 112, (413) 667-3232
  Homemade breads, Huntington aged cheese, cider, hot chocolate, real ice cream, candy, coffees and teas, local maple syrup and various country gifts and accessories.

- **The Hut**
  Route 112, (413) 667-3423
  Soft ice cream, snacks in season.

- **Knightville Package Store**
  Route 112, (413) 667-3214
  Variety store with propane gas, beer, wine, hot coffee, doughnuts and sandwiches.

- **Moltenbrey's Market**
  Route 112, (413) 667-3426
  A grocery store featuring a full line of meats, cheeses, produce and groceries.

Lee

- **Grampy's Corner Store**
  Route 20, (413) 243-2088

- **Convenience Plus Stores**
  241 Main Street, (413) 243-2399

- **The Cone Zone**
  54 Main Street, (413) 243-1132

Middlefield

- **Olds General Store**
  Main Street, (413) 623-6241

Russell

- **Cumberland Farms Dairy Store**
  Route 20, (413) 862-3600

Accommodations

Becket

- **Bucksteep Manor**
  Washington Mountain Road,
  (413) 623-5535 or 800 645-2825
  Turn-of-the-century Manor Inn, centrally located. Wedding, party and conference facilities. Pool, tennis, camping, hiking, x-country skiing, lounge.

- **Tollgate Inn**
  Jct. Rte 8 & 20, (413) 243-0715
  Authentic stagecoach stop and Tollhouse (c.1790). Five rooms with private baths. Complimentary breakfast. Gift shop. 1 mile to Jacob's Pillow.

- **Canterbury Farm**
  Fred Snow Road, (413) 623-8765
  17th century B&B secluded on 200 acres with cross country skiing. Full breakfast included. 5 min. to Jacob's Pillow, lakes, trails, Tanglewood nearby.

- **1820 Long House Bed & Breakfast**
  High Street, (413) 623-8360
  1820 New England home, near all summer/winter activities. 4 rms 1w/pvt. bath. Relaxed country atmosphere, near lakes, camps, Appalachian Trail.

Chester

- **Frog Hollow Farm**
  Holcomb Road, (413) 354-9678
  A different bed and breakfast, furnished country cottage with 2 bedrooms. Homebaked goods including muffins and scones. Deck with view, picnic area and hiking trails.

- **Walker Island Campgrounds**
  Route 20, (413) 354-2295
  Walker Island offers family camping facilities, including full hook-up to tent sites, located between two mountain streams. Free hot showers and flush toilets, adult and family recreational halls, limited grocery, propane (metered), and planned activities.

Huntington

- **Sunscape Gardens**
  88 Bromley Road, (413) 667-5786
  Bed and breakfast. Perennials, shrubs, garden designs.

Lee

- **Applegate B&B**
  279 West Park Street, (413) 243-4451
  Stay amidst antiques and fire places in an elegant Georgian Colonial set on over 5 tranquil acres. Pvt. baths, pool, A/C.

- **Black Swan Inn On Laurel Lake**
  Route 20, (413) 243-2700
  52 charming rooms (27 lakeside w/deck), hydratubs, fireplaces, exercise room/sauna. Conference facilities, lakeside restaurant, pool, boats. Ski packages.

- **Chambery Inn**
  Rte. 20, 199 Main Street
  (413) 243-2221, (800) 537-4321
  Perfectly restored 1885 French Country Inn, exquisite 500 sq. ft. suites, king canopy beds, whirlpool baths, fireplaces, A/C, phone, CCTV, handicapped units, breakfast. Impeccable accomm., Restaurant, room service.

- **Days Inn**
  Route 102, (413) 243-0501
  26 room motel with in-room phones, a/c, color TV's and king size room w/jacuzzi. Non smoking rooms. AAA approved. Complimentary coffee.

- **The Donahoes**
  Fairview Street at Davis, (413) 243-1496
  Shaker Colonial on quiet hill bordering Lenox & Stockbridge. Sunny rooms, antiques, continental breakfast, private baths, 2 blocks Rte. 102.

- **The Ferncliff**
  93 Franklin Street, (413) 243-4793
  A classic Greek Revival home. Comfortable rooms furnished with antiques & fresh flowers. Continental breakfast served in dining room.

- **Gaslight Motor Lodge**
  Route 20, Greenwater Pond, (413) 243-9701
  Open year-round, 8 unit motel, private bath, TV, refrig., swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, x-country skiing, hunting. Hosts: The Cascio's.

- **Haus Andreas**
  Stockbridge Road, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-3298
  Restored mansion on 3 acres, queen/king beds, private baths, 3 fireplace rooms, A/C, pool, tennis, continental plus breakfast, bicycle, golf nearby. Elegant.

- **Hunter's Motel**
  Route 102, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-0101
  Exit 2 Mass. Pike, left off ramp - right on 102 - you're there. Air conditioning, color TV & cable, in-room phones. Restaurant, gift shop, fuel on site. Close to all cultural events.

- **The Inn At Laurel Lake**
  Laurel Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-1436
  20-room, century-old inn at the edge of the lake. Swim from our private beach. Secluded lawns, relaxed ambiance. Canoe, rowboat, tennis court and sauna.

- **Jirak's Guest House**
  60 Laurel Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-3201
  Large Victorian near all amenities. Breakfast served in dining room with Crystal Chandelier. This is a non smoking house.

- **Juniper Hill**
  Stockbridge Court, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-4425
  Colonial in relaxing setting with beautiful mountain/pastoral views. Homebaked muffins/breads. Stroll country roads.

- **Laurel Hill Motel**
  Rte. 20, Laurel Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-0813
  1 mile from Exit 2, Mass. Pike, Efficiency, connecting rooms, indiv. A/C, heat, phones, TV, large pool, minutes to Tanglewood, Jacob's Pillow.

- **Morgan House**
  33 Main Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-0181
  Our cozy & authentic stagecoach inn with 12 guest rooms has been welcoming the Berkshire traveler since 1853. Featuring superb New England fare.

- **The Parsonage On The Green**
  20 Park Place, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-4364
  Relax in our beautiful country home. Swim, ski, golf, symphony nearby. Romantic guest rooms. Bountiful breakfast and personal attention.

- **Pilgrim Motel**
  127 Housatonic Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-1328
  1/4 mile north Exit 2 Mass. Pike, 36 deluxe rooms, jacuzzis, A/C, coffee, pool. Minutes from Tanglewood; tennis, golf nearby.

- **Prospect Hill House**
  1 South Prospect Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-3460
  Cape Colonial, quiet location, close to Tanglewood. Generous home baked country breakfast served on patio or in gracious common room. Semi & private baths.

- **The Ramsey House**
  203 West Park Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-1598
  Warm, friendly antique 1895 Colonial, most rooms w/ private bath. Continental breakfast served on glass-enclosed porch, walk to golf, 4 mi. to Tanglewood, Jacob's Pillow.

- **Sunset Motel**
  114 Housatonic Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (413) 243-0302 or 0309
  22 air conditioned units, Free HBO color cable TV, phones (DD), pool. Exit 2, I-90. Near Jacob's Pillow. All credit cards.

- **Super 8 Motel**
  Exit 2, Mass. Pike - 128 Housatonic Street, Lee, MA 01238
  (800) 843-1991
  America's finest economy lodging in the Berkshires, 49 tastefully decorated rooms, free HBO.

Other Locations

- **Baird Tavern Bed & Breakfast**
  Old Chester Road, Blandford, MA 01008
  (413) 848-2096
  A registered country colonial home with fireplaces and wide pine floor boards. Two spacious double bedrooms, shared bath, cot and crib available. Gourmet country breakfast, featuring blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, homemade bread and jams.

- **Blue Heaven Blueberry Farm**
  Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA 01243
  (413) 623-5519
  A two-bedroom apartment, furnished with decks and a view. Appliances included: microwave-oven, television, washer & dryer.

- **Country Cricket Village Inn**
  Route 112, Worthington, MA 01098
  (413) 238-5366
  Bed and breakfast country inn with five bedrooms, each with a private bath. Relax in the cozy common room beside the fireplace for reading or television.

- **Hampshire Hill Bed & Breakfast**
  Various homes throughout the Hilltowns 848-2096 / 238-4441 (for reservations) Enjoy the charm and rural traditions of New England. Clean and comfortable accommodations in a variety of homes. Home-cooked breakfasts, 19 homes in the association. Available: everyday.

Appendix C

Places of Interest & Things To Do

Agriculture

- **Jameson's High Meadows Farm**
  Skyline Trail, Chester
  (413) 667-3640
  Maple syrup, cordwood, hay, pick-your-own blueberries, black and red raspberries, peaches and apples.

- **Misty Mountain Farm**
  Ingell Road, Chester
  (413) 354-6337
  Haflinger horses, maple syrup, cordwood, hay and straw. Scotch Highlanders cattle.

- **Kelso Homestead**
  Bromley Road, Huntington
  (413) 667-3251
  Pick-your-own blueberries in season.

Cultural Places of Interest

- **Becket Arts Center Of The Hilltowns**
  Route 8, North Becket Village
  (413) 623-6635, P.O. Box 286
  Gallery in historic building features oil and watercolors

by area artists. Special event programs beginning at the end of June thru early September, Sat.-Wed. hours. Art workshops.

- **Berkshire Opera Company**
  Admin. Office: 17 Main Street, Box 598, Lee
  (413) 243-1343
  Performances June-July at Cranwell Opera House, Lenox.

- **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival**
  George Carter Road, Becket
  (Mailing Address: Box 287, Lee 01238)
  (413) 243-0745 (Box Office)
  Ten weeks of the Best & Boldest in dance, music & performance art. "The Hub & Mecca of Dancing in North America" - Time Magazine.

- **THE miniature theatre OF CHESTER, Inc.**
  Chester Town Hall, Route 20, Chester
  (Mailing Address: Box 487, Huntington, 01050),
  (413) 667-8818
  World class professional theatre in a New England village. A five-play season, mid July to Labor Day.

- **Russell Conwell Academy/Sevenars**
  Rte 112 and Conwell Road, Worthington
  Offering summer concerts in an historic academy.

Annual Events

March

- Chester Hill Maple Festival, Chester

April

- Westfield River Whitewater Races, Chester-Huntington-Russell

May

- Hilltown Farmer's Market, Huntington
- Chester on Track, Chester

June

- Hilltown Farmer's Market, Huntington
- Westfield Classic Bicycle Road Race, Westfield

July

- Hilltown Farmer's Market, Huntington
- Sevenars Concerts, Worthington
- THE miniature theatre OF CHESTER, Chester

August

- Hilltown Farmer's Market
- Sevenars Concerts, Worthington
- THE miniature theatre OF CHESTER, Chester
- Hot Air Balloon Festival, Worthington
- Littleville Fair, Huntington
- Middlefield Fair, Middlefield

September

- Hilltown Farmer's Market
- THE miniature theatre OF CHESTER, Chester
- Blandford Fair, Blandford

October

- Hilltown Farmer's Market
- Great River Ride Bicycle Race, Hilltowns
- Chester Hill Harvest Festival, Chester
- Jacob's Ladder Days, Hilltowns

Appendix D

Shops & Stores

Service Stations

Becket

- **Mohawk Garage**
  Route 8, (413) 623-6022

Chester

- **Charlie's Garage**
  Route 20, (413) 354-7740
  Service and gas station

- **Richie's General Service**
  Route 20, (413) 354-6543
  General auto repair and towing.

Huntington

- **Stone's Garage**
  Route 112, (413) 667-3042
  Complete repair service, gas station.

Lee

- **Lee Mobil Inc.**
  Route 20, (413) 243-2127

- **Lee Sunoco**
  15 Park Street, (413) 243-9720

- **Lee Texaco Service**
  Route 20, (413) 243-2942

Russell

- **Riverbend Auto Service**
  Route 20, Russell
  (413) 862-4571
  Full-service gas station featuring Citgo gas and diesel fuel. Complete automotive and light truck repair facility including towing.

Bicycle Shops

- **Plaine's Bike, Golf, Ski**
  55 West Housatonic Street, Pittsfield
  (413) 499-0294
  A full service bike, golf and ski specialty shop offering sales, service and rentals.

- **New Horizons Sports**
  Route 20, Westfield
  (413) 562-5237
  Full service cycle shop; sales, repairs, parts, cycle clothing, accessories. Member Northeast Sports Cyclists Club.

- **Custom Cycle**
  88 Elm Street, Westfield
  (413) 568-6036
  Full service cycle shop; sales, service, parts. Mountain and road bikes.

Specialty Shops

Blandford

- **Maris Studio Gallery**
  Route 23, (413) 848-2273
  A working painter's studio on a hilltop. Usually open afternoons April-October, or anytime by appointment.

Chester

- **Friendship Antiques**
  River Road, (413) 667-5748
  Country furniture and collectibles. Open weekends and holidays 11am - 6pm through the foliage season.

- **Pease Clothing Store**
  Main Street, (413) 354-6565
  Quality clothing since 1912 for men, women and children.

Huntington

- **Huckleberry Trolley Bakery and Gift Shop**
  Route 112, (413) 667-5154
  Breads, pastries, French meat pies, home baked beans, deli items, fresh doughnuts.

- **Huntington Country Store**
  Route 112, (413) 667-3232
  Country gifts and accessories, homemade breads, Huntington aged cheese, real ice cream, jewelry, candy, toys, cookbooks, coffees and teas, local maple syrup, kitchen gadgets.

- **New Traditions**
  Allen Coit Road, (413) 667-3448
  Herbal wreaths and herbal products. Also decorations and displays for corporate and private functions. Wedding, banquets and business displays.

- **Westminster Gallery**
  East Main Street - Route 112, (413) 667-3964
  Traditional furnishings and accessories for the home. Unique gifts and hand crafted items. Furniture restoration and interior design consultation.

Middlefield

- **River Studio**
  River Road, (413) 238-7755
  Fine art bronze sculpture, reliefs or in-the-round. Portraits, commissions. Bronze casting and rubber mold making.

Worthington

- **Stonepool Pottery**
  Conwell Road, (413) 238-5362
  Handmade woodfired stoneware pottery and gallery.

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
26 Central Street
West Springfield, MA 01089
(413) 781-6045